

KOREA TODAY

No. 44

1960

Prospects for 1960

EAST ASIAN

U.N. and Korean Question

Worse Than Prison Life

Reminiscences of Anti-Japanese

Partisan Struggle

Ancient Metal Types



Newly built Dokro-gang Hydropower Station

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Korean painting "Sister and Brother" by Choi Do Ryul

BACK COVER: Lacquer ware inlaid
with mother-of-pearl





PROSPECTS FOR 1960

PEOPLE greet New Year with different feelings and wishes according to their position.

1960 promises good prospects to all honest-minded people who value peace, despite the difference in political views and languages.

People in all lands greet the New Year with firmer conviction of peaceful life, as the wind from the East is breaking up the ice of "cold war" which the ruling circles in the West had been carrying on for a long time by brandishing atomic weapons in their attempt to frighten the people.

In their New Year greetings, people in all countries express congratulation on the victory of peace.

1960 holds out good prospects to the Korean people, too.

GOOD PROSPECTS

1960 is the year of special significance in the life of the Korean people. This year will be an adjusting period for the Korean people in their socialist construction.

Why do they call 1960 an adjusting period?

It is the year when they make preparations for another leap forward in their socialist construction.

The hard battle which the Korean people waged in the postwar period, particularly since 1957 when they embarked on the First Five-Year Plan, produced good results. They fulfilled two and a half years ahead of schedule the targets of the First Five-Year Plan for gross industrial output value.

Korea's industrial output grew at an annual rate of 42 per cent during the five years of postwar period (1954-58), and in

1959 it rose 50 per cent above the previous year.

Forging ahead at the speed of "Chullima" (winged horse), the Korean people had overfulfilled the First Five-Year Plan (1957-61) by 13.2 per cent (from preliminary data) by the end of 1959, that is, two years ahead of schedule.

This is eloquent proof of the rapid growth of the productive forces based on the socialist relations of production which have triumphed in towns and countryside.

An end has been put to the colonial onesidedness in our industry, and firm foundations for the socialist industrialization have been laid.

Our country has built powerful bases of heavy industry, and is producing on its own modern production equipment and heavy machines of various types.

The movement for multiplying machine-tools which started last year in all parts of the country as a mass drive is accelerating the epochal development of the machine-building industry and the technical reconstruction of the national economy.

Development of local industry has made it possible to enlist tremendous reserves for increasing the output of articles for popular consumption and further accelerate the growth of the country's productive forces as a whole.

Noticeable achievements have also been registered in our agriculture.

Irrigation of fields, the basis of technical revolution in our agriculture, has been completed in the main; big strides have been made in rural electrification; and the economic and technical conditions for pushing ahead with mechanization of farming have been created.

Per-jungbo, output of grain in 1959 is expected to be 17.6 per cent higher than in 1958. Such increase is attributable to the establishment of irrigation systems, the extensive introduction of intensive cultivation and advanced farming methods.

Material and cultural standards of the people have improved markedly on the basis of the achievements made in developing the national economy.

Before the Korean people who have scaled the peak of the First Five-Year Plan rises another peak of higher altitude — the Second Five-Year Plan.

Our Second Five-Year Plan which starts from 1961 will mark a decisive period in the building of socialism in Korea.

When the Second Five-Year Plan is accomplished, foundations of the socialist economy in the North will be further strengthened and the material and cultural standards of the people will improve markedly.

In the adjusting period of 1960, we will make all preparations necessary for capturing the peak of the Second Five-Year Plan.

It is in conformity with the demands arising in the development of our national economy that we have made 1960 an adjusting period.

CENTRAL TASKS IN 1960

Epitomized in a few words, the central tasks of the Korean people in 1960 are to ease the strain created in some branches of the national economy in the past, particularly in the course of carrying out the 1959 plan, boost up the insufficient branches and further improve the people's living.

For the accomplishment of these central tasks, the Korean people will:

First, concentrate all forces on mechanizing the farming;

Secondly, direct forces to further improving the people's living; and

Thirdly, increase output in all industrial branches by raising labour productivity and operation rate of the existing production equipment.

To this end, while keeping up the basic line of economic construction — priority growth of heavy industry along with the simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture — greater forces will be directed to the manufacture of farm machines, the ore mining, fishing and chemical fibre industries; and the power and coal mining industries, transport, capital construction, and all other branches of the national economy should be developed in harmony with the accomplishment of the central tasks of the adjusting period.

Total value of industrial output in 1960, it is planned, will rise 12.5 per cent above the previous year.

MECHANIZATION OF FARMING

Mechanization of farming, the task which the Korean people have set themselves as

the foremost problem to be solved in 1960, represents the lawful demand arising in the development of our co-operativized agriculture.

Unless the farming is mechanized, we cannot ensure further development of the agricultural productive forces, nor can we further consolidate the socialist co-operative economy and ensure the balanced development of industry and agriculture.

Socialist transformation of agriculture means reform not only in relations of production but also in technique.

Socialist form in relations of production provides possibilities for the rapid growth of agricultural productive forces, and the possibilities can be translated into reality through technical revolution.

Irrigation, mechanization and electrification represent the main content of technical revolution in agriculture.

Now that irrigation has been completed in the main and great success has been registered in rural electrification, extensive mechanization has become the central task of technical revolution in the rural areas.

Korea's agriculture was still based on old technique even when the co-operativization was effected. Therefore, in order to display to the full the advantages of the co-operative economy and decisively increase the agricultural production, it is necessary to mechanize farming.

Mechanization of farming will enable us to meet more satisfactorily the growing demands for grain, vegetables, meats, industrial crops such as oil-bearing plants and raw materials for light industry, and to ensure proportionate development of industry and agriculture.

Mechanization of farming assumes great significance in bringing the peasants closer to modern technique and culture and further raising their ideological level.

What, then, is the line of mechanization of farming?

It will be stepped up by furnishing agriculture with tractors, lorries and other motor propelled machines and at the same time supplying animal-drawn farm implements. And it is to be carried out by stages, first in plain areas and then in mountain areas.

This line is most appropriate, as it has been worked out by taking into full account

all the conditions—not only natural features of the arable land, composition and distribution of crops, planting system, farming season, etc. but also the level of the development of industry and technical forces of the country.

According to this line, mechanization of farming will be first undertaken in those provinces of plain area—South Pyongan and South Hwanghai, and completed in the main by 1961.

We are provided with all the conditions necessary for the mechanization of agriculture. Our heavy industry is in a position to turn out in large quantities all the necessary machines.

Mechanization of farming will put an end to the long-standing technical backwardness in the Korean rural areas, and turn our rural areas into more prosperous and cultural ones employing modern farm machines in all work.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIFE

One of the central tasks in the adjusting period is to further improve the people's living.

The living of our people, which was deteriorated due to the severe war damage, has markedly improved in a short space of time.

Monetary wages of factory and office workers in 1959 were 44 per cent higher than in 1958, while their real wages rose above the level set for 1961 under the First Five-Year Plan.

Real incomes of peasants have also increased.

With the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, living standards have improved and conditions for further improving the people's living have been created.

To satisfy fully the ever growing demands of the people is the supreme law under our social system.

In 1960, we will direct our main forces to the branches related to the improvement of the people's living.

To increase the output of grain, vegetables and meats, we will not leave even an inch of land uncultivated, secure more arable land, raise to the highest possible the utility rate of farmland and, in stock farming, positively develop the common breeding in

agricultural co-operatives in combination with the side-line of individual co-op members, thereby bringing about a radical turn in the production of animal products.

To catch more fish, we will develop deep-sea fishery, effectively organize inshore fisheries of middle and small scale and extensively expand the culture in shallow waters and the fish breeding in fresh and salt water, and decisively improve the processing of marine products.

Light industry, especially the local industry which accounts for a large proportion of the output of articles for popular consumption, will turn out in greater amounts divergent articles for popular consumption and foodstuffs of good quality.

Construction of dwelling houses and cultural and welfare establishments which are of urgent need for the improvement of the people's living will be undertaken on a larger scale.

The Government will make big investment in the building of houses and cultural and welfare establishments.

In 1960, more than twice as many dwelling houses will be built with government funds as in 1959, 3.5 times as many schools, 3.6 times as many hospitals and 8 times as many theatres, cinemas and clubs.

OUR WATCHWORD

"Let's produce more without increasing manpower and equipment!" is our watchword in 1960. In other words, it means increasing output by raising labour productivity and using to greater efficiency the existing equipment and the areas of production establishments.

In this regard, we proceed from the consideration that as modern production establishments have been built or expanded and

manpower has increased in recent years we can explore considerable reserves.

Socialist productive forces comprise means of production and the man operating these means.

Premier Kim Il Sung instructed us that in the conditions of our country important reserves for raising the productive forces and labour productivity can be explored, above all, by enhancing the revolutionary spirit, labour zeal and technical standards of the producers.

As is evidenced by the fact that our working people, with the watchword: "Increase production to the maximum while practising economy to the maximum!" have established the records far above the nominal capacity in the operation of machines and accelerated the development of the productive forces of the country, the masses of producers with high revolutionary spirit and high technical standards have inexhaustible creative energy. For increasing output, we are speeding up in every way mechanization and automation.

The above-mentioned are the basic problems the Korean people are going to tackle in 1960.

Our work has become easier as a result of the overfulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

We have created the conditions for making bigger strides ahead.

For us who have creditably surmounted the difficulties in the hard battle, there is nothing to fear.

We are firmly determined to do more work than planned for the year.

Ring in the New Year, we look forward to the heartening prospects for the peaceful unification of the country.

The achievements we have so far attained in the building of socialism constitute the firm guarantee of the peaceful unification of the country. In 1960, we will further consolidate these achievements.



U. N. and Korean Question

JUN IN CHUL

THE KOREAN QUESTION was again a subject of discussion at the fourteenth session of the U.N. General Assembly. This question has thus been included on the agenda of the General Assembly for twelve years on end, and resolutions on the question have been taken twelve times.

And what have all the U.N. "discussions" and "resolutions" on the Korean problem brought about in the life of the Korean people? Nothing.

Korea still remains divided with her people suffering from the continued national tragedy. The effect of the country's division is not confined to her people's affliction alone, but, as one of the burning international issues, creates tension in the Far East, endangering peace and security in this part of the world. Further, developments on the Korean peninsula have in no way served the cause of consolidating world peace as a whole.

Then, what is at the root of all this and why does the United Nations discuss and make resolution every year?

It will be recalled that the Korean question was a leftover of World War II, a question for postwar readjustment. From the nature of the case, it should not have been brought to the United Nations.

But the United States, having no concern whatsoever for the interests of the Korean people or the maintenance of peace in the Far East, made null the decision of the Moscow Three Foreign Ministers Conference of December 1945 on Korea, and dragged the Korean question into the U.N., with the object of making political capital of it.

From that time, the international peace organization was reduced to the status of a tool of Washington's policy for turning Korea into a colony and military base, and the United States openly embarked upon the path of aggression on Korea, relying on the mechanical majority it had at its command in the international body.

This is exactly why the United Nations has so far failed to make any progress in settling the Korean issue.

Having thus been made America's political tool, the United Nations has, for the last ten-odd years, unilaterally placed the Korean question on the agenda every year, in utter disregard of the interests and will of the Korean people; adopted resolution each time on the Korean question which reflected the aggressive designs of the United States, without any consideration of the actual situation in Korea.

Things were just the same in the latest session of the General Assembly. The U.S. delegation, clinging to their old position on the Korean question, repeated the same dull comedy as before with no variations.

In this, the U.S. delegation and its followers sought to justify their stand by bringing up the report of the so-called "U.N. Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea." But it is well known that since its formation in October 1950 for the purpose of justifying the aggressive war in Korea, the commission has faithfully served those who are against the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. That this commission has been operating as nothing else than an agent of aggression becomes clear if one gets a glimpse of the list of the authors of the commission's "annual report" for 1959. The report was prepared, strangely enough, by member states of such war blocs as Nato, Cento and Seato—Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey.

It was by no means without reason that the Ceylonese delegate who spoke at the General Assembly session, called the fruitless discussion on the Korean question a "trite" and "disgusting" argument. This was a manifestation of the "disgust" toward the old position of the United States which ignores the trend of the present international developments marked by the setting in of a "thaw" in the "cold war."

Then, what urges the U.S. to bring the Korean question to the General Assembly every year? It is that the ruling circles of the U.S. seek to cover up, under the cloak of the U.N., their bankrupt aggressive policy toward Korea; to interfere in her domestic affairs; and to impose their own will upon the Korean people under the name of the U.N.

This was again proved at the latest session of the General Assembly. The U.S. delegation, just as it did before, stubbornly opposed the presence of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Unable to produce any plausible pretext for his opposition in the Political Committee, the U.S. delegate pleaded that he did so because it had been the "established practice" of the past years to permit only the attendance of the delegate of the puppet Syngman Rhee. This preposterous assertion only went to show that the U.S. was unwilling to give up its old stand, and does not want to see the unification of Korea achieved.

But how can it be expected that without the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the fate of thirty million people of Korea can be decided?

Anyone who sincerely wants to see the settlement of the Korean question can never go on sticking to such a stand. It was quite natural that the position of the U.S. met with the opposition of many delegates. The Indian delegate, for instance, said that without the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "the future of Korea cannot be discussed effectively" and "no solution can be found."

That the U.S. does not want Korea's unification and progress became strikingly clearer when U.S. delegate Robertson complained that "Communists have strengthened their illegal foothold still firmer in North Korea." "This," he continued, "is unfair and therefore the U.N. forces cannot withdraw from South Korea."

Nobody could speak in a more infamous way. According to his logic, it would have been "fair" if the people of North Korea had been left sitting helplessly on war debris caused by Americans themselves, shivering from hunger and cold. It would have been "legal" if North Korea had also been turned into a "huge prison," as Western pressmen have termed South Korea, a place where millions of unemployed, displaced peasants and

waifs and strays are wandering about towns and countryside. If we had allowed U.S. armies to set up rocket and guided-missile launching-pads in North Korea, the U.S. delegate would have undoubtedly said "the U.N. troops can pull out."

We Korean people, however, did not consider ourselves bound to share Americans' way of thinking. We have healed the horrible scars of war and restored the national economy in a short space of time. By the end of 1959 our industrial output increased six times that in the prewar year of 1949.

This is just what is not to the liking of Americans. But the march of realities cannot be stemmed or reversed. For the Korean people, it is not a matter of whether Americans like it or not.

Significant in this connection is the fact that Korean nationals in Japan are today coming back not to South Korea where U.S. soldiers are playing cock on his own dung-hill, but to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, their true fatherland.

If free elections are held throughout Korea under these circumstances, as proposed time and again by the Government of the D.P.R.K., it is plain for all to see which path the people would choose. The U.S. ruling circles are aware of this. That is why the U.S. delegation to the U.N. has for more than ten years now been insisting upon so-called "elections under the supervision of the U.N."

The fourteen-nation resolution on the Korean question which the U.S. delegation railroaded through the latest General Assembly session on the strength of its voting machine, again referred to the hackneyed "elections under U.N. supervision."

But the Korean people are only too well aware what the "elections under the supervision of the U.N." would mean. It would be too naive if one thinks that the Korean people will ever agree to "elections" to be held under the supervision of those nations which took part in the aggressive war against the Korean people and under the conditions in which their troops stand guard over the electorate with fixed bayonets.

The *New York Times* was quite justified when commenting on the General Assembly discussion on the Korean question, it pointed out, on December 11, 1959, that the U.S. approach to the Korean question was "unrealistic."

All this shows that the U.S. has not yet

Statement of the Minister of

(IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADOPTION OF AN ILLEGAL RESOLUTION ON

The Political Committee of the 14th Session of the United Nations General Assembly again adopted on November 27 an illegal resolution on the Korean question which is wholly at variance with the will and interests of the Korean people.

In this connection, I am authorized by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to state as follows:

In connection with the inclusion of the Korean question in the agenda of the 14th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Government of the D.P.R.K. has already made it clear that the discussion by the United Nations of the Korean question, a question that should be solved by the Korean people themselves, was unlawful and that once the question was set to be discussed, the representative of the D.P.R.K., the party concerned, should, as a matter of course, be invited to participate in it.

However, the U.S. imperialists, defying this just proposition, rejected the participation of the representative of the D.P.R.K. by mobilizing their followers in the Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and again impaired the prestige of the United Nations by unilaterally discussing the Korean question and forcing through the so-called fourteen-nation "resolution" on the basis of the preposter-

ous, false report of the "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea," an aggressive tool of the U.S. imperialists.

The United Nations is repeatedly doing futile things by adopting, as annual routine, such illegal resolution which has already become a target of the unanimous denunciation of the Korean people and the unbiased public opinion of the world people.

The "resolution" adopted this time under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists, like a series of resolutions of the United Nations on the Korean question in the past, is aimed at justifying the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and extending the fascist-terror rule of the Syngman Rhee clique to the northern part.

As is widely known, the United Nations was a beligerent party in the Korean war by allowing the U.S. imperialists to misuse its flag, and it was founded long since to have lost even the moral authority for solving fairly the Korean question by allowing itself to be used as a cover for the U.S. imperialists' aggression against Korea.

The U.S. imperialists, still occupying the southern part of our country under the signboard of the United Nations, are trying to hamper in every possible way the peaceful unification of Korea and perpetuate

given up its insidious designs on Korea. This explains why they are refusing to withdraw their troops from South Korea, despite the fact that more than one year has passed since the Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from North Korea.

But the course of events over the past period has proven that the Korean question can be solved only by peaceful means. The peaceful settlement of the Korean question represents not only the ardent desire of the Korean people but also of the peace-loving peoples the world over.

Only the U.S. and its stooges are against this. Is it not high time for them to draw a lesson from the ignominious defeat they suffered in Korea seven years ago, and reorient their policy?

What a pity that the U.S. gentry should yet fail to see the fact that time has passed when the imperialists could decide the fate of the Eastern peoples at will!

At any rate, the discussions at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly once again proved that so long as the U.N. remains a tool of the U.S., it will also remain incompetent to settle the Korean issue and will only invite upon itself the distrust of the world peoples.

If the U.N. really wants to help facilitate the solution of the Korean question as a peace organization, it ought to proceed from the actual state of affairs in Korea. It ought to pay due consideration not to the will of Washington, but to the will of the people of Korea.

Foreign Affairs of the D. P. R. K.

THE KOREAN QUESTION AT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

the artificial division of Korea.

Due to the split of the country by the U.S. imperialists, the Korean people are undergoing immeasurable national misfortunes and sufferings and, in particular, the people in the southern part are in a dire straits, stricken by abject poverty with no rights whatever.

The prerequisite for the solution of the Korean question is the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggressive army from South Korea.

There is no ground whatsoever for the U.S. army to remain in South Korea.

The Korean question must be solved peacefully by the Korean people themselves, without any interference from outside, by means of setting up a unified state power organ through general elections on a democratic basis.

Prior to the discussion of the Korean question at the current Session of the U.N. General Assembly, the Government of the D.P.R.K. called the attention of the United Nations and its entire member states to its

principled stand. In particular, the Sixth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly of the D.P.R.K. once again clarified the most reasonable and constructive programme for the peaceful unification of the country.

The just demand of ours has evoked the fair public opinion of broad sections of the world peace-loving people and is enjoying their absolute support.

The Government of the D.P.R.K., declaring that the "resolution" on the Korean question of the Political Committee of the 14th Session of the U.N. General Assembly is completely null and void, resolutely rejects it.

At the same time, the Government of the D.P.R.K. again strongly demands the United Nations to take, in keeping strictly with the spirit of its Charter, measures for the immediate withdrawal from South Korea of the U.S. imperialist aggressive army which is hindering the peaceful unification of Korea and for the dissolution of the "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea."

PAK SUNG CHUL

Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea

November 28, 1959

Pyongyang

The Korean question must be settled by the Korean people themselves without any interference from outside. The first step towards this should, first and foremost, be withdrawal from South Korea of foreign troops including U.S. army. This is the indispensable prerequisite to the settlement of the Korean question.

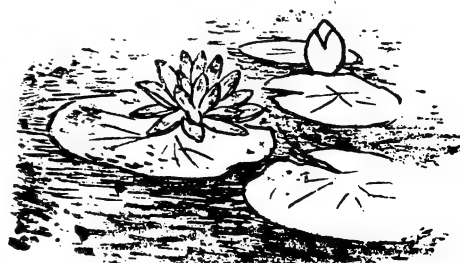
There is no ground whatsoever for the U.S. troops to stay in South Korea any longer.

The Korean people maintain that unification of their country be achieved through free general elections throughout North and South Korea on a democratic basis, in accordance with the will of thirty million people of Korea, after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea.

This unalterable demand of the Korean

people had warm support of delegates of many countries at the latest General Assembly session.

We will march forward along the path which is best for us toward the peaceful unification of our country, irrespective of any "resolution" concocted by the U.S. in the U.N. to impose upon us.



My New Year's Wish

I like the idea of the New Year coming around at this time of the year. We are so used to it that a New Year morning is almost invariably associated with the whole land furred with snow or the air filled with that white down.

But suppose the new year comes around May, June or July—the blazing months of the year. I have never been outside the boundaries of Korea, but I do know that in some countries the new year comes in “summer,” when spoken in terms of Korea’s weather.

Mind you, I’ve nothing against the summer, though it is a bit too hot for me. So I can hardly picture people exchanging New Year greetings busily fanning or wiping off perspiration. However, let it be stated here that in those countries where the new year is celebrated on a hot summer day there are many charms and pleasures that I do not experience when a New Year is ushered in.

The only New Year I know is always connected with snow. Speaking of the weather, I like autumn best. The blue sky looks bluer, the sun is more golden than ever and the whole landscape blazes with colour. Yet in the fall I cannot help reminding myself that the year is soon coming to an end. Leaves begin to fall and one can see the bare trees. A New Year at the beginning of spring—that’s for me.

Of course, I did not celebrate always the New Year at this time of the year.

When I was a child we lived by the old lunar calendar and the first day of a New Year did not come around until the beginning of February. Then the snow and ice started melting. How slushy it was, I felt. So I’m coming back to the New Year with cold and snow.

Just picture yourself snow flakes falling all day on the last day of the old year to usher the New Year into a clean, white land. On the morning of the first day, the sun looks brighter than ever. Of course, in the last analysis everything is up to Nature. We cannot order Nature as we wish. But such is the New Year’s morning—that ordinary Korean people picture.

Then there are the chattering sparrows. They are it seems, noisier on snow. How pleasant it is to hear the swishing sound under one’s feet while walking on the snow. Later in the morning everyone sets out to extend New Year greetings to the elders. The New Year celebration is in full swing. One hears people congratulating each other with such words: “Happy New Year to you,” “I hope the New Year will bring you great success,” etc. And how neat the people look in their holiday best.

Though the winter is at its height, somehow seems on New Year’s day even the cold sends out warmth!

The New Year celebrations are not complete without children. In their bright coloured costumes the children are merrier than ever. It is a joy to watch them going to pay their respects to their elders on New Year’s morning. The girls play seesaw—a typical Korean game.

When the papers are delivered, even the smell of newsprint makes one feel fresh. They carry a picture of Comrade Kim Il Sung with many children.

The people say together good-by to the departing year and welcome the New Year. In factories, offices, schools and in agricultural co-ops, people go together on New Year’s Eve for celebrations. In those celebrations there is usually singing and dancing. Art circles give performances. And there are other entertainments.

As the clocks strike twelve the people listen to the New Year’s radio message delivered by one of their leaders. Then they toast the New Year.

The New Year’s message, just like in other years is along the line of peace, unification of the divided Korea and people’s happiness—things the people desire most. People receive much inspiration from the speech. They make many resolutions on achieving new things in the coming year.

There has been an old saying in Korea to the effect that you got to plan well to have a prosperous year. But today people make plans not as individuals but

resolutions are made by the entire people as a nation and on the state basis. Everyone resolves to carry through his duty in his position for the realization of the wish for peace, unification and prosperity.

The New Year itself is enveloped in a peaceful atmosphere.

Looking back over the labour results of the old year, the people feel the joy of standing on a new summit of socialism. Their minds are filled with fresh vigor and untold happiness as they look forward to communist society.

In exchanging New Year greetings with their neighbours and friends the people are wishing the prosperity and development of their fatherland—their one and only fatherland. The warmth and kinship the people have towards each other make even the severe cold glow with warmth as if spring were here already. No wonder we call the New Year *sinchoon* (new spring). But I think it means more than just beginning of the season of spring. They called the New Year a new spring because, I think, on this new morning people feel fresh hope, a surging strength and greater happiness to come.

However, as we all know, the "New Year" was not always a happy one for the Korean people. We do not have to go back very far.

Only a few short years ago, we faced the New Year in crowded, cold and dark air-raid shelters. The sun was bright as ever, and there was snow. But we saw none of this. New Year celebrations were out of the question. Even the children looked grim in their shabby dresses. Not a cup of fragrant wine was to be had to toast the New Year. Only anxieties and fear shadowed us.

I remember so well one such New Year's morning. I saw a formation of American war-planes in the sky. For a moment I thought to myself: They must have forgotten today is New Year's Day.

How foolish I was, of course. I was so naive as to think that even they would not do anything so beastly on a New Year morning—a day of peace and good-will. But I was wrong! Grossly wrong! They had to taste blood again on this holiday.

I am sure they too have New Year's plans and make resolutions. I would not be surprised if they have a big world map stretched out in front of them as they pass drinks in the name of New Year. Their not-too-bright minds, filled with greed and ambition, begin to work. Each one utters a new proposal. Each says which spot would be most suitable for starting trouble in the coming year. Place A would be better than B for guided missile bases. And how about it...

But I am quite sure they were quite sober at their New Year celebrations this year. Because, even to them, things do not look too good for their plans

to be carried out in the New Year. The ice of cold war has begun to thaw and the people's voice for peaceful co-existence is growing louder. People want to live peacefully with their neighbours. For a long time they have wanted this. To realize even one day sooner the aspiration of the people, Premier Khrushchov made a trip to the United States, and the Soviet Union released satellites and cosmic rockets. One of the Soviet rockets reached the moon and another is circling the moon, sending out messages to this earth—the messages of "Never again the tragedy of Hiroshima" and "People must live in peace."

Throughout the world, the people of good-will tasted the New Year lending an ear to these messages.

On New Year's day, I with my family and friends celebrated the New Year in our apartment. And we heard the messages, the voice of peace, with much feeling.

This year's celebrations were merrier than the previous years. The heart of everyone throughout the country is warmer, more peaceful, and happier. The very fact that the people's wish for peace has become more intense than ever brightened our little home.

We have every reason to be merrier this year. During the past year we completed the First Five-Year Plan two and one-half years ahead of the set time, on the basis of which we are resolved to build a yet better life during this year. The people's lot keeps improving all the time. It was a joy indeed to welcome the new year with my family and friends, making firm resolves to work harder to hasten the tempo of progress.

Of course, my wife too was very gay and happy in celebrating the new year. But I could see her doing everything not to show the cloud over her heart. Her family—parents and brothers and sisters—are on the other side of the artificial dividing line of Korea. She was wondering, I knew, if they were all right. If so, what kind of new year they were having. Would they celebrate the new year as we do in such comfortable home with family members and friends?

Though I knew her thoughts, I did not attempt to console her. As a matter of fact, I seldom do, because facts will console her. Bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming a new one means that the day when she will meet her loved ones is drawing nearer. Time is on our side, on the side of peace. Perhaps that is why we don't mind the "fleeing time."

As I have already said, a New Year is not always joyous to everyone. There are so many on this good earth who are still suffering from poverty. Little hope they have. I, too, like all the people of this land, once felt little joy in the coming of a new

year. I remember so vividly that when I was in my twenties the only thing I could sense on a New Year's morning was the swiftness of time. Gloom was all I felt in those years. But, why do I feel so good now as I usher in a New Year? Some 20 years have passed since those dark days too!

Do you think I feel as I do now because I have cast off the sentimentalism of those younger years? I think it is more than that. My view on life has changed into a healthy and positive one. And I have formed a firm conviction in the purpose of life. I am conscious of all this and I am resolved to work for its realization. And I know that socialism has given me all this.

As we welcome the new year, little do we think of the fact that we are one year older. On the contrary, we sense the full meaning of eternal youth! Because with fresh vigor we are drawing nearer as the years go by to the goal we have set. The word "eternal youth" is no more a literary expression to me but a living reality.

I welcome this New Year wishing three things—greater happiness for my family, peaceful unification of our divided land, and peace and progress for the entire people of the world.

On the first morning of 1958, I composed a poem entitled "My Wish." Not that it was a good poem but because my inner feelings are little different in welcoming the year of 1960 from the first morning of 1958, I am giving one stanza of that poem below!

*On the first morn of the year
I have one, only one wish!
That people may meet New Year
In joy and in peace!*

Brief Interviews

My Cherished Desire

ON the eve of the New Year people's thoughts turn to the future. It has always been that way. Everyone of us wants to look behind the curtain of time and get some insight of what the future holds in store.

The Korean people enter the New Year with a feeling of satisfaction and justified optimism for the future.

The year 1959 was marked by noteworthy events in our country. By the first half of 1959 we fulfilled the First Five-Year Plan, two and a half years ahead of schedule in gross industrial output value.

The people are eager to begin the New Year in earnest. There is so much to be done. We have to enrich our country more. Production is to grow further and our culture will bear more fruits this year. But we will have to work harder, first of all, for uniting our divided land by peaceful means. What do the people think as they greet the New Year? This reporter of *Korea Today* made a tour of Pyongyang visiting several places to talk with ordinary people of the city. The following is a part of the interviews this reporter had with the people in their own languages.

PAK BO YUNG

Saleswoman, West Pyongyang Department Store

AS I greet the New Year my first thought is of our country. I do hope our country is united peacefully at the earliest possible date. I know every Korean wishes this. My sister and I came to North Korea in the autumn of 1950, leav-

ing behind our parents and brother in Seoul. They may still be there.

When I was in South Korea, my elder brother ran away to escape conscription into the puppet army. Then the police put my father, who was a daily labourer, to every kind of torture to learn the whereabouts of his son. The police maimed my father. Our hearts were torn with sorrow when we left home for North Korea, leaving behind our disabled father. But he told us that only by going to North Korea could we lead a worthy life. And he added that Syngman Rhee's rule was doomed and that we would soon meet again.

I married four years ago. I am very, very happy living in a modern house with my husband and baby son. My sister has graduated from the university and she too has happily married. I'm always busy at the store. But whenever I hear the southern accent at the counter, my thoughts go back to my father, brother, relatives and friends in the southern part.

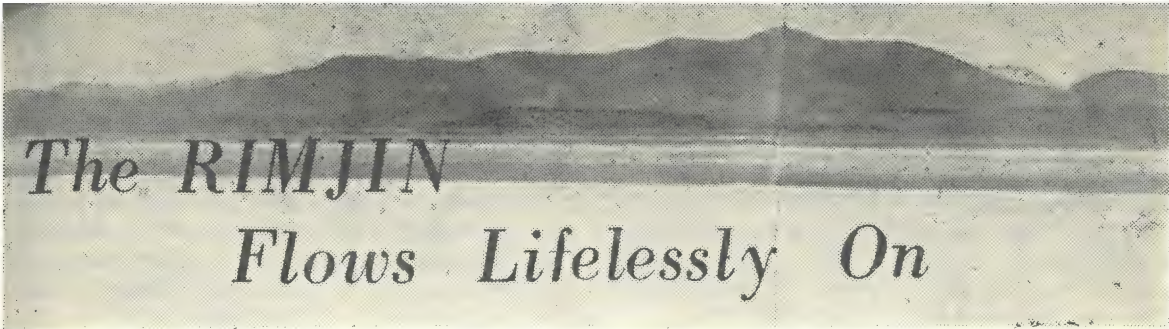
I'm quite sure they too like us are waiting impatiently for the day when our country is united peacefully.

KIM KWANG JOON

Worker, Pyongyang Machine Factory

THE country's peaceful unification is my dearest wish for the New Year.

Our people have been suffering great hardships from the national



The RIMJIN Flows Lifelessly On

JANG SUK HOON

THE RIVER RIMJIN rises in the rugged hills in central Korea and flows down to the southwest. It is not one of the biggest rivers of Korea. Before it empties into the Yellow Sea it joins with the River Han. And it is around this region that a bare hillock called Mt. Kwanmo stands. The Military Demarcation Line, the artificial line which divides Korea into two, runs right through the middle of the river at this point.

During the past six years not a single fishing boat was to be seen on the river. Once people crowded this region. There were ferry services to Pajoo, Kimpo and Seoul. But today only cold, murky water washes the banks, where tall weeds are flourishing.

The river had been a source of good fishes. Children played there and women did their washing there. Boats glided quietly with their masts hoisted high and the fishermen's songs echoed far and wide. The river had been so near and dear to the hearts of the people of this region. But now it is a river of resentment, a river of division. And not a sign of life is to be noted on the river. Only the American imperialists are to blame for all this.

* * *

From times gone by on the slopes of Mt. Kwanmo there stood some 20 farm houses. People living on

the side facing the river fished in the stream while people on the other side engaged in farming. But all the houses were burnt down during the war. Houses were built again on the slopes when the war ended. However, only on one side. No house was built on the side facing the river since it is impossible to use the river any more. But, one exception. A single house stands halfway up on the slope of Mt. Kwanmo overlooking the river. In this house lives a 69-year-old peasant woman, Kim Soon Yung, who looks much younger than her age. She is still very active. Today she lives with Li Keun Hi, a daughter, and an 8-year-old grand-daughter. But during the days of U.S. and Rhee rule, she lived with her son Li Hong Keun, daughter-in-law and a two-year-old grandson. At that time her daughter lived with her husband's family in a nearby village.

It happened one evening in December, 1950. Mrs. Kim was on her way back home from a neighbour's. Suddenly there was a piercing cry of her grandson in the darkness. Horrified she ran to the house. Several U.S. and Syngman Rhee soldiers were dragging away towards the river her son and his wife who held the baby in her arms. Mrs. Kim dashed towards the riverbank, calling her son and grandson. "Oh! Hong Keun! my son!"

split for the past 14 years. Are we to suffer more?

In our factory, there are many workers who hailed from South Korea. When I see how much they are thinking about their native places or when I hear about the miserable living conditions of the South Korean people, I cannot suppress anger at the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee gang who imposed the artificial division of Korea upon us.

I'm looking forward to the New Year. I'm sure our life will become more abundant.

KO JONG IK

**Musician,
State Art Theatre**

I am a musician. Naturally I'm greatly concerned about the development of our culture and art.

While our culture and art are making healthy progress in the North, in the South they are being trampled on. Just turn your radio to Radio Seoul. The air waves are polluted with the cheap U.S. "Boogie Woogie." I came from South Korea where vulgar

Hollywood films, and decadent American novels and plays are flooding. Over there every expression of art is considered in terms of how much it will bring in. Many South Korean artists are forced to sell themselves. Otherwise they have no way of supporting themselves. So, it is out of the question for South Korea to expect a sound growth of true art.

I know there are many talented artists in South Korea. But it is impossible for them to display their talents. They would contribute so much to enriching the

But her son and daughter-in-law with the baby had already been thrown into a boat. Struggle as he might, her son could not free himself. The kidnappers were holding guns.

"Mother... Good-bye, mother!" was the voice of her desperate son.

"Don't let them take us. Mother..." the daughter-in-law cried out tearfully.

Stepping into the river, the mother continued to scream "Oh my son! My daughter! You poor dears! Where are they taking you? Please don't take them away." But the boat disappeared in the darkness.

In this way the U.S. army and Syngman Rhee puppet troops kidnapped many young people when they fled from the North.

About two months after that tragic night U.S. bombs hit Mrs. Kim's house and shattered it to pieces. Luckily she was unharmed because she had been ill and was staying at her daughter's. But when she got well again, she came back to the spot where her house once stood and built a small hut. Five months later, this hut, too, was smashed by a U.S. shell. The villagers had almost given her up, as they removed the debris. But, to their surprise, they found Mrs. Kim all right! She was hiding deep in the cave. She was sixty years old then.

The people advised her to move from the slope, but she would not. Soon afterwards, she picked up logs and built another hut on the same spot. She has been living there ever since with her daughter Keun Hi whose husband is in the People's Army.

After the area north of the river came into the embrace of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the villagers set up co-operatives. Keun Hi was among the first ones to join. A new life came to the people of this village. In 1958, several co-operatives merged into the Rimhan Agricultural Co-op.

Arable land in Rimhan-ri was about 400 jungbo in the past. There were no irrigation facilities whatsoever, so the farmers had to depend on rain water for the crops. Very often the fields were parched and cracked. Though there were some paddy fields, the peasants could grow little rice. And the yields from the land were very small: 600 to 700 kg per jungbo at most. Even most of this meagre yield was taken away by the landlords. Then there were tax collectors. As a result, no provision was left for the farmers even after autumn harvest. They had to live on grass roots and tree bark until the next barley harvest. Many of the inhabitants lived by fishing. They brought fishes, crabs, shrimps and shells to the nearby towns. Those were "lucky ones." But others were haunted by the ghost of hunger.

The Syngman Rhee rule gave them little relief. On the contrary, it made their plight still worse. Syngman Rhee officials forcibly took away even barley from the peasants,

However, when the village came under our Republic, the peasants became masters of the land.

More land has been opened for cultivation and now they are holding some 600 jungbo. A huge irrigation project was completed last year. The water from the Duksoo Reservoir irrigates all the fields through 600 metres of tunnels and 12 kilometres of water-ways. The village co-op harvested this year an average of 4-5 tons of rice per jungbo, an unprecedented harvest in the history of this village.

Not only that. Rimhan-ri had no electric lights before. But the year before last, electricity came into every house of this village. Electric threshers are to be seen here and there, and the lumber-mill and rice-cleaning mill are run by electricity.

The co-op owns more than 4,600 head of live-stock. Red-tiled cozy houses stand on the slopes of Mt.

culture and art of Korea if it were possible for us to get together.

For the earliest realization of peaceful unification of the country I demand the U.S. army to withdraw immediately from South Korea.

JO BYUNG KUL

Teacher, Kim Chaik Polytechnical Institute

THOUSANDS of sons and daughters of workers, farmers and office employees are studying in our Institute free of charge. Most students are receiv-

ing state stipends every month. Our Institute maintains a department of correspondence courses. At present it is no exaggeration to say that the entire nation is studying in schools, work places and offices. More than one fourth of the population is enrolled in schools.

South Korean youth and students occur to my mind.

My wish for the New Year is that young people in South Korea can study freely as we do here. Many students in South Korea cannot continue their studies because they cannot pay school ex-

penses. Classes are held mostly in warehouses and other temporary buildings. And the schools are turned into profiteering centres.

When the students manage to graduate from school, they cannot find any work. It is by no means accidental that the crimes committed by youth and students are increasing. Who is to blame for such evil consequence?

It is my wish that in South Korea, too, compulsory primary and secondary school education will soon be effected like in North Korea. For that our country should become one soon.

Kwanmo. Besides, there are a clinic, schools and stores in the village. And the co-op has their own lorries and tractors.

In 1958, Keun Hi's family was given as their share nearly two tons of grain and more than 600 won in cash. And in 1959 they are to receive approximately 2.5 tons of grain and about 1,000 won. They do not live in the old hut any more.

After the Armistice, the co-op chairman Li Kyo Shin suggested to Mrs. Kim that she should move into a bigger house newly built on the northern slope of the mountain. But she would not listen to him.

Last summer, Li Kyo Shin again offered a new house to her. This was what she said:

"It's very kind of the co-op to be so concerned about us. But how can I leave this place? The River Rimjin flows in front of my house, and over the river is the land of South Korea. My son and daughter-in-law were carried away across that river. They are on the other side now, but whenever I look at the river I feel as if I am hearing them calling me. I really feel as if they will come back to me to their dear home any day. I simply cannot leave here. I have to stay here and wait till my children come home. I'll wait for days, months or for years. I am getting on in years, but I'll never die until I see them again!"

The gloomy Rimjin River flows lifelessly on. Only twice a day the water rises to wash both its banks.

Across the river on the southern bank lies a village where there were nearly 200 houses once. Then a bit further down there was Mojuge, a fine fishing village. But today, only a handful of people are to be seen in these villages. The people have moved out.

Many of the houses have collapsed. The few remaining ones are badly in need of repair. The walls are crumbling down and the window frames are all sagging. No new house is to be seen in the villages across the river. The tumble-down fences of the houses add to the ghostly air, and weeds overrun the yards. The dirt road is deserted. Only now and then the "ROK" MPs come in sight.

Year in and year out the South Korean peasants contract debts for farming, but they have to pay back almost twice the amount in autumn. On the top of this, they are subjected to onerous exaction under the name of "tax on land", "redemption grain", "irrigation fees", and various other taxes. Then flood and drought visit South Korea every year.

Particularly, the typhoon and the flood that swept South Korea last September severely damaged the crops. More than 7,000 inhabitants of Yungyang County, some 3,000 of Chungsong County of North Kyungsang Province and many other peasants in South Korea ran out of provision immediately after the harvest last autumn. They are on the road in search of grass roots and tree bark. What is more,

over 100,000 jungbo of South Korea's arable land has been expropriated by the American imperialists for the military use.

From here Pajoo can be seen across the river. It was in Pajoo a few years back that some 80 American MPs attacked a Korean village in broad daylight and ransacked every house. They took away hundreds of young and middle aged men after much bloodshed in the village. This occurred back in April 1957. But even after the incident, the American soldiers continued to indulge in plunder, murder and arson in Pajoo. Only recently, they have expelled peasants from four villages in the western part of Juksung Sub-county, Pajoo County, in order to set up a training ground for artillery. Furthermore, the MPs of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division raided with fire arms three villages in Keumgok-ri. Chunhyun Sub-county, Pajoo County, robbing the inhabitants of their belongings.

The reports of guns across the river are heard so frequently in this area that no one pays much attention. American fighters, reconnaissance planes and light bombers constantly fly over the vicinity of the demarcation line. The explosion of bombs they drop somewhere on the other side of the river shakes the windows of the houses in Rimhan-ri. One can hear day in and day out the sound of heavy guns the Americans are firing.

The American troops take their shooting practice using innocent women and children, workers and peasants as their targets. Sometime ago, near the Kimpo airport across the river, the "civilized Americans" moved down six Korean boys who were playing in the street. And Pfc Renton Mapfra of U.S. 7th Division artillery battalion shot and killed on the spot a boy named Pak Chun Tai who was on his way to school.

If one stands on the bank of the Rimjin River, all the tragic events taking place in South Korea flash before his mind—from Pajoo to Cheju Island. He feels as if he were seeing the savagery committed by the Americans and the wretched plight of the people of South Korea. And one will ponder over the past and present as well as the future of our country, the fatherland of 30 million people. The Rimjin River has many tragic stories. A wife looking at the opposite bank day and night watching for her husband who was taken away across the river to the South. An old man stranded in Rimhan-ri—he was here from the other side to visit with his relatives. Young men and women who are engaged to be married but their loved ones are on the other side of the river.

"Oh! How wonderful it would be if that cursed demarcation line were removed once and for all and the people in the North and South could visit each other freely! Then boats would sail again on the

Rimjin River and my husband would return to join me!"

This is the cherished desire of Kim Soon Rye of Shikhyun village who lives separated from her dear husband because of the demarcation line.

Ji Eung Tai, a young construction worker of the Rimhan Agricultural Co-operative, is from Pajoo. He expressed his wish in the following words:

"I must share this joyous life that I had dreamed of ever since my childhood, and that my parents, brothers and sisters had so eagerly aspired after. They must enjoy this wonderful life of ours. So must my village folks. I wish our country be unified as soon as possible. The first thing I'll do so soon as the

country is unified is to take a boat across the Rimjin River."

The peaceful unification of the fatherland is what the 30 million Koreans unanimously wish. This wish of the people nobody can suppress. The wheels of history are moving on toward the realization of this aspiration of the Korean people. Today the Rimjin River is silent. But the day will certainly come when the hearty cheers of the people will ring up and down the river on both sides, the northern and southern banks. Then the river will flow again as a river of freedom, a river of liberation and a river of unification. And the day is bound to come when Kimpo and Pajoo and all other villages of the southern part will have a co-op like the Rimhan Agricultural Co-op, making the whole countryside a richer one.

WORSE THAN PRISON LIFE

Quite often it is asked how the people fare in South Korea under U.S. occupation. The following, a bit of the latest information, will answer the question.

YOON HO

FLOOD OF UNEMPLOYED

There are no less than 6.6 million unemployed and semi-unemployed in South Korea. It has been several months since the figure was made public by the Syngman Rhee clique.

We remember that in the 30's a big depression swept the U.S., and the American workers staged hunger marches. It was said then if the unemployed in the U.S. lined up with their outstretched arms touching each other they would reach from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic and back. But the line of unemployed and semi-unemployed in South Korea today would extend more than ten times the distance from Pusan to Shinuijoo, that is, from a northern corner of Korea to the southern end.

The army of unemployed in South Korea keeps growing. A recent issue of the South Korean magazine *Jaijung* (Finance) No. 5 in 1959 described conditions in the following manner. "There are many questions to be solved in the South Korean economy, such questions as overpopulation, shortage of

resources at home, etc. But the government has no concrete plan for solving these questions. Industry keeps shrinking. Factories have cut down the number of workers. Only 2.6 per cent of the manufacturing industries and 0.4 per cent of mining industries are operating... And no country surpasses South Korea in the size of the army of unemployed in the countryside."

Comprador capitalists, talking about "rationalization of management," but in word only, "are thrown upon the horns of a dilemma as they have no modern technique for realizing their end." This is because they are dependent on the U.S. All they know to do is to cut down the number of workers and exploit workers mercilessly.

Dismissal of workers en masse has become more frequent since September 1955, when Syngman Rhee gave the order to enforce "a policy of retrenchment. By the early part of 1956, about 5,000 textile workers had been laid off. In 1957, 1,700 railway-men were discharged and again 2,000 more in 1958. According to a recent issue of a daily, *Taegu Mai*

Shinmoon, 470 medium and small trading enterprises in Taegu and near-by districts, a South Korean textile center, closed down between April and June last year, and 80 per cent of the hosiery factories suspended operation. Naturally there was another big lay-off of workers. The South Korean *Haptong News Agency* reported on October 23, 1959, that even those "lucky" workers who did not lose their jobs were little better than semi-unemployed, because they worked only a few days a month. It also reported, "Longshoremen have no work to do for 16 days a month on an average."

SLAVE LABOUR

Workers in South Korea are not only menaced by unemployment but also driven like beasts in their work. Sometimes they are not given even lunch time. Still worse they are not paid regularly.

Some employers discharge a large number of workers. And those on pay rolls have to work 12 hours a day, as much as 16 to 20 hours in the field of transport. Besides, they are watched by "foremen," "guards," "superintendents," "team leaders" and even sometimes by the Syngman Rhee's army-men. "I am constantly watched even at the hostel by the superintendents, to say nothing of my work place," a woman textile worker in Yungdeungpo lamented. As the South Korean magazine *Jaijung* wrote, today in South Korea "slave labour is forced upon the workers." Still worse, workers are being killed in accidents almost every day due to lack of safety devices at work places. Locomotives with no headlights clash and pits collapse in mines. At the Jokwang Textile Mill in Suwon, a steam tank burst killing many girls. And poor sanitary conditions causes an increase of the sick among workers. A South Korean journalist who visited the Tongyang Textile Mill in Inchon wrote as follows:

"The weaving shop reminded me of a boiler mouth. If I were to work there, I would drop in a faint..."

The whole of South Korea is ridden with diseases. According to an official announcement of the puppet regime, more than 2.1 million are suffering from tuberculosis in South Korea. It is estimated between 40,000 and 50,000 die of the disease annually.

The Seoul radio broadcast, "South Korea ranks first in the world in the number of tuberculosis cases and in mortality rate." No wonder that a Swedish journalist said after a visit to South Korea that however scrupulously one might prepare himself for the worse, he would be surprised at the gruesome sight and dire plight he finds there.

THE DAY WILL COME

This happened recently at the Sungbook Police Station in Seoul.

One day a man walked into the police station and begged:

"Send me to prison, please!"

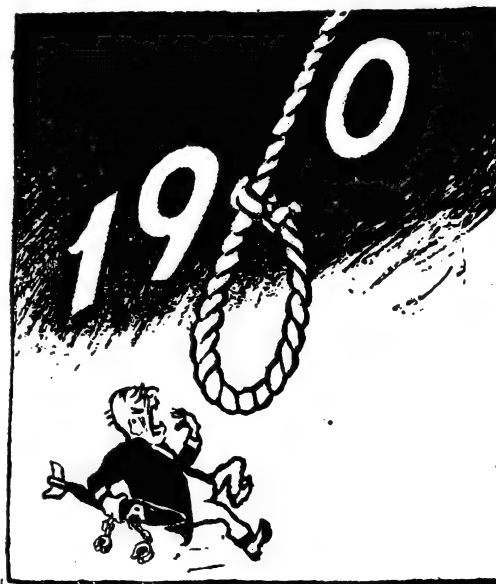
"Are you crazy? Get out of here," the police on duty shouted.

"Officer, I'm serious. I can't get any job and I have no roof over my head. It is no time for me to be choosy. Please send me to prison so that I can taste some food and get a good night's sleep."

The man named Pak Ki Soo was serious all right. He had once attended a university in Japan.

Today in South Korea the number of suicide cases is growing. The *Pusan Ilbo* reported the case of an unemployed man named Li who, "unable to see any way to marry and make a living for his beloved, took his own life by drowning himself in a reservoir." And Moon Jai Dong, a jobless, discharged Syngman Rhee armyman, also killed himself because it was unbearable for him to see his children crying with hunger.

Ro Jin Sun, former private, Second Company, 73rd Regiment, 26th Division of the Syngman Rhee



Syngman Rhee

army, born in Jochon Sub-county, Wanjo County, North Cholla Province, who recently came over to the North said, "There are more and more suicides in South Korea."

As reported by a U.P. correspondent, today in South Korea, while only a handful of the rich live in luxury, the majority of the population is leading a dog's life. South Korea is a "living hell" for the toiling people. Under the circumstances the anti-U.S. and anti-Syngman Rhee feeling is surging ever higher. The people fight back the fascist rulers. They shout, "U.S. imperialists, go back where you came from. And take your atomic weapons with you." Workers struggle against the reactionary enterprisers for more wages and due rights. Despite threats and oppression, the workers in South Korea no longer hesitate to go on strike.

"After futile negotiations with the management of the Talsung Mine of the Korea Tungsten Corporation 200 miners went on strike. In order to prevent the workers' strike, the management threatened the workers by saying 'If you go on strike you will starve to death,' 'Winter is nearing' and so forth, but in vain." (The *Sekye News Agency*.)

Ro Jin Sun said:

"I have come to know in North Korea for the first time how joyous life is. The country's peaceful unification must be realized as early as possible and the chain of oppression and exploitation fettering the South Korean people must be broken. I believe that the day will come soon." Not only Ro Jin Sun but also all the Korean people wish for this. And the day will come soon without fail.

Queer Trades

=====

"Spare Time Drivers"

There are drivers who wait all day at the Seoul Railway Station or at the taxi stand at Eulji-ro Sixth Street. They wait there to rent and drive cars while the regular drivers are out for lunch or involved in some sort of accidents. On those occasions the "spare time drivers," as they are called, rent the cars a few hours to earn a little money. If there are no accidents, these people sometimes wait for nothing for several days. At present it is estimated the number of those "spare time drivers" is more than three times that of regular drivers.

The taxi drivers in South Korea drive cars that belong to someone else. To earn a few hwan they have to carry at least 200 passengers every day, otherwise they do not have enough to pay the car owners, for the gas and the helpers. But it is difficult for them to carry 200 passengers a day. So, they rent

Facts and Figures

SOUTH KOREAN authorities boastfully say that the national income per capita in South Korea was 56 dollars in 1958. But the South Korean journal *Jinsang* (Truth) commented that the figure was the lowest in the world. It is equivalent to half of that in Thailand and to one quarter of that in Ceylon.

National income should be taken to mean the value added to the country's material wealth

by productive activities in a given period. The national income for any year is thus the gross social production minus the means of production consumed in creating the new wealth. The South Korean rulers, however, do not take it in that way.

In calculating national income they do not deduct the depreciation fund to make up for the means of production consumed, 8 to 10 per cent of the output value. On the other hand, they include the incomes from the non-productive branches—speculation, banking organs, service organizations, insurance and even the puppet army, police, lawyers, etc. in it. Hence, it necessarily fol-

lows that the figure mentioned above is far greater than the real one, by roughly 35 per cent.

Enchanted by the magic of figures, the "Ministry of Finance" of the Syngman Rhee puppet regime announced that the national income of South Korea increased from 229.7 billion hwan in 1953 to 784.6 billion hwan in 1957, i.e. by 241 per cent. Of course, conveniently they overlooked the 269 per cent rise in prices. When this is taken into consideration, their national income will go down by 18 per cent.

Compared with 1957, the South Korean national income in 1958 decreased by 2.6 per cent or 21.2

There are many queer trades in South Korea where one half of labour power is either unemployed or semi-unemployed. The South Korean daily "Tonga Ilbo" carried recently the following article on queer trades.

the cars to the "spare time drivers" to get a little extra money.

"Professional Wedding Ceremony Presiders"

In Seoul there are some people who make a living by performing wedding ceremonies. When people get married in South Korea, the first problem is to get a room for the wedding ceremonies. Usually they rent a small room with the understanding that the ceremony would be performed by the professional presider who goes with the room. Even this profession needs some money, because first of all there has to be a room and one set of decent clothing fit for the ceremonies.

"Court Brokers"

There are many people who hang around the court house all day. These are usually the "court brokers."

They usually crowd the court houses or the neighbourhood of prisons. They call all the prosecutors and judges by their first names. If a "court broker" sees one who looks depressed and worried he rushes to him. These "court brokers" are smooth-tongued. So when such a character approaches a victim-to-be he will be asked to talk to the judge or the prosecutor for the victim. He consents and disappears for some half an hour before he appears again. Chances are very likely that he would have been hiding himself in a men's room. The Syngman Rhee clique arrest people right and left. Yet, they overlook many irregularities committed by the influential or by the rich. They can get away with murder but the poor become an easy prey of the court brokers.

Concluding the article the *Tonga Ilbo* wrote as follows:

"Everyone in South Korea—the government workers, businessmen, and the office employees—lives on a day-to-day basis. Today one may have his day, but tomorrow he will be at somebody's mercy. In such cases one's downfall is taken for granted including a jail sentence. Even the businessman, the expert tax evader, if he offend certain persons, that would be the end of him. And the office workers—who can be sure about his future?

"It has been said one's lot is a matter of time. But now it is said the short glory is a matter of people. The South Korean society is run under the principle of 'It is either you or me!' If one loses his way it could be the end of him before he knows it. You have to be alert, otherwise you can never know what's going to happen to you."

billion hwan. And it is estimated that in 1959 the figure will shrink further by 10 per cent as against the previous year.

Now the South Korean national economy is on the verge of overall bankruptcy. The case in point is the operation rate of medium and small enterprises.

In South Korea, the medium and small factories hold 99 per cent of the total number of factories, 81 per cent of the total employees, and 66 per cent of the total national production. In 1958, the Taihan Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted a survey of 2,757 such factories, of which 33.7 per cent

suspended operation and 30.9 per cent reduced operation. Even those key industrial enterprises such as power and coal industries, ship building and railways, all under the direct management of the puppet regime, are little different from other industries. Thanks to the U.S. monopoly capital and militarization policy as well as to the impoverishment of the popular masses, some of them have already gone bankrupt or face total ruin.

Agricultural productive forces also are being reduced year by year.

First of all, the acreage of arable land is shrinking. In 1958, it was reduced by 13 per cent, or 310,000

jungbo (one jungbo is approximately a hectare) compared with 1945, and the sown area by 600,000 jungbo. In addition, agro-technique remains backward. Under these conditions the decrease of agricultural output is only natural.

From 1956 to 1958, the average annual grain output in South Korea went down to 73 per cent compared with that in the years from 1936 to 1940, and the cotton output in 1958 to one fifth as against 1940.

* * *

William E. Warne who had been a so-called economic co-ordinator of the U.N. Civilian Assistance Com-

Sidelights on South Korea

"Investigation Fees"

ACCORDING to the South Korean paper *Tonga Ilbo*, some one stole a fountain pen belonging to Pak Yung Kuen, living in Donam-dong, Seoul. He duly notified the police about the theft. The police started their "investigation" but all together the police took 80,000 hwan from the victim as the investigation fees. The fountain pen cost him only 3,000 hwan! And the police did not find the pen either!

A Toll Bridge

ACCORDING to the *Pusan Ilbo*, the flood of the past summer swept away the wooden bridge across the Junpochun River in Pusan. A certain gentleman named Bai built a bridge for the "good of the public." It was all right. But who would have guessed he would collect 10 hwan from everyone who uses the bridge?

"Security for Employment"

RO JIN was a man living in Namhang-dong, Yungdo District, Pusan. One day he came up

with a signboard, impressively written, "motion picture producers." Then he put a big advertisement in the local papers for actresses. Scores of women came to answer the ad.

This Mr. Ro even gave a screen test to the applicants. Twenty of them passed the test. Then these who were to become "stars" were asked to put up "security" for joining the company. With great hope Kim Ok Soon and others put up 270,000 hwan. But next day Ro Jin disappeared. So did the money!

Such "business" is quite popular in South Korea. Besides the "motion picture producers companies," there are "trading companies," "shipping companies," "life insurance companies," etc. in Seoul and in Pusan to swindle the unemployed.

"Substitute Convict"

THE SOUTH KOREAN paper *Tonga ilbo* printed a novelty recently.

A certain policeman named Suh of the Tongyung Police Station, South Kyungsang Province, was on his way to deliver a smuggler to the Masan jail. The smuggler was to serve a two year sentence. On the way to the Masan jail the convict offered the policeman 2,600,000 hwan. With the money the policeman managed to "buy" a man to take the place of the convict. What happened to the smuggler? He was set free!

mand in Korea said that about one third of the gross industrial and agricultural output of South Korea in 1958 was appropriated to war expenditure. According to data released by the "Ministry of Transport" of the Syngman Rhee regime, 47 per cent of the railway freight turnover in 1957 was war supplies, and 73.6 per cent of the amount of consumption of coal in 1957 was for military use. (The South Korean *Economic Year-Book*, 1958.) All the canned food produced in South Korea was consumed by the army.

* * *

While the production decreases, issuance of paper notes is on the increase. And prices and taxes keep

sky-rocketing.

The amount of currency increased from 49,000,000 hwan in August 1945 to 116,310,090,000 hwan at the end of 1958. Prices went up 8,662 times in 1953, and 39,700 times in 1958 compared with 1945.

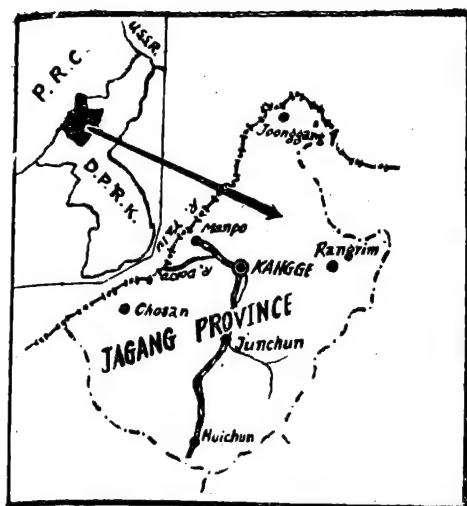
Electric light charge for a 30 watt bulb in South Korea rose from 12 jun in 1947 to 302 whan, or 2,500 times, this year. It cost only 50 jun for hair cut in 1947, but now it costs 200 hwan. The per capita amount of tax increased from 3,622 hwan in the fiscal year of 1954 to 8,781 hwan in 1958. About 80 per cent of the annual revenue of the Syngman Rhee regime comes from taxes. While the total value of na-

tional production in South Korea in 1959 is estimated to be about 220 billion hwan less than that of the previous year, the amount of taxes imposed upon the people is 68 billion hwan greater.

* * *

Such is the situation in South Korea. The U.S. imperialists occupying South Korea are to blame for all this.

Holding the artery of the South Korean economy from the early days of their landing in South Korea, they have been dumping their surplus goods to exploit and plunder the people. They have turned South Korea into their colony and an outpost for aggression.



Jagang Province

Situated in the area along the middle reaches of the Yalu River, Jagang Province is one of the most mountainous provinces of Korea.

The Rangrim mountain range covers the province. The total area of the province is about 16,000 square metres, but only one tenth of it is under cultivation.

In times gone by the province was known as the most remote place in Korea. The place was considered unfit for human inhabitation. It was said wild beasts prowl about even in daytime. The whole region lay in waste for years.

The province is rich in natural resources of gold, silver, copper, etc.

But until liberation these resources could not be utilized for the people's welfare. There were only some small mines operating besides

a few breweries and timber stations. The living standards of the inhabitants of this province was in general very low. Because the land for cultivation was so limited that the people opened small plots on the mountain slopes, and in the winter time they hunted on the mountains for their meagre living.

The hunters of this province have long been famous for their courage and accurate shooting. The feudal rulers scorned them usually but in an emergency they called up the hunters of this province. Indeed there are many stories about the valour displayed by the hunters of this province in their fight against the alien invaders.

The history of the Jagang Province in the past is a history of hunger and sorrow.

However, Jagang Province has made great changes under the people's power.

POWERFUL INDUSTRIAL CENTRE

It is an industrial centre of our country. Particularly, the Hichun region is one of the important industrial centres. Hichun was an insignificant mountainous village with a few small plots on the mountain slopes.

But today there stand two up-to-date large-sized machine building factories, the Hichun Machine-tool Factory and the Hichun Precision Instruments Factory. The Hichun Machine-tool Factory produces various modern machine-tools: lathes, shapers, presses and boring

A street of today's Kanggye



machines, etc. The machine-tools produced here not only receive approval at home but great quantities are exported. At present the workers of the Hichun Machine-tool Factory are constructing a machine-tool factory in Pyongyang as big as their own factory. The town has a new look of an industrial centre with its many tall buildings, clubs, hospitals and nurseries.

Jagang Province is also turning into an important power centre. The Dokrogang Hydro-power Station was completed last year, the construction of the Woonbong Hydro-power Station next to the Soopoong Hydro-power Station, the biggest in Korea, a Korean and Chinese joint project, has been going on some time, and the construction of the Kangge Hydro-power Station is making headway. Besides these large-scale power stations many small power stations are being built in every valley throughout the province. Already 179 small power stations have been completed giving 1,600 kw of electricity. The inhabitants no longer use the pine torch for a light. Electricity has now reached all the villages.

There are 200 odd industrial enterprises in the province including state-run factories, local industry factories and the producers' co-ops. The number of local industry factories reaches about 100, which turn out processed foodstuffs and

daily necessities, some 1,100 kinds all together. Particularly, the wine produced by the province-run Kangge Wine Brewery in Kangge City is quite popular throughout the country. During the past year the gross industrial output value of this province increased 21.2 times compared with 1949, the pre-war year.

MORE MEAT FOR THE PEOPLE

Since the liberation a big scale of nature remaking has been going on and a new farming method suitable to the local climate condition has been adopted. As a result, agricultural output has increased gradually and now the peasants enjoy unprecedented rich harvests.

But the livestock breeding has made the most remarkable progress, taking advantage of the geographical conditions of the province. In the past the numerous mountains and valleys were only a hindrance to the improvement of the people's living standard. The peasants of this province yearning for more land said, "If only those mountains could be used as farm land!"

But now every mountain and valley has been made to serve the people under the slogans: "Mountaineers should turn the mountains to account!" and "Turn the grass into meat!" In the province there are almost 60,000 hectares of grazing land while 18,000 odd hectares

of land are suitable for growing fodder crops.

Take Osoduk in Joonggang County for instance. It is an out-of-the-way place in the mountainous province of Jagang. In Osoduk the summer is short and the snow falls before the crops are ripe. In the past the people drank rain water or melted snow. And the people suffered from various local diseases.

But today on the plateau there is a big state livestock farm. The wilderness has been turned into a fertile land to give bumper crops every year.

The work of livestock breeding is being mechanized while many advanced breeding methods are being adopted.

Preparing fodder has been completely mechanized and the species of pigs have been converted into the Siberian species which produce more meat.

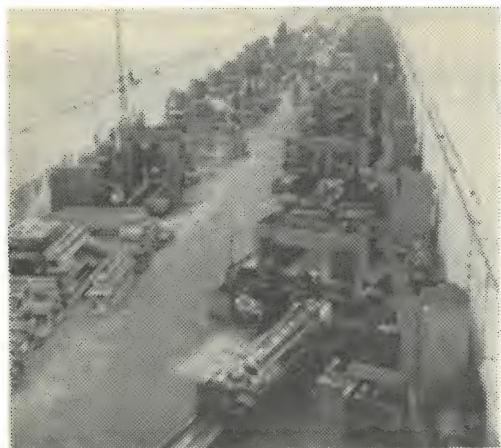
Bee-keeping and the production of various furs also are developing fast along with the livestock breeding.

CULTURE FLOURISHING

In times gone by the people here knew little of culture. There were only two middle schools. A sick person had to walk 40 odd kilometres to go to a hospital. And they did not know what movies were. Nor had they ever attended any theatrical performances.

But now there are 257 schools above the junior middle school level including a veterinary and stock-breeding institute and seven specialized schools. Illiteracy has been eliminated completely. Every village (village) has clinics, clubs and libraries. Every city and county has cinema houses, and mobile cinema units visit every village regularly. Altogether there are some 4,700 odd art circles in this province and every factory, enterprise and co-op maintains technical circles.

Thus the material and cultural standard of the people of Jagang Province keeps rising.



**A part of the
Hichun Machine-tool
Factory**

PYONGYANG IN WINTER

Photos by Kang Dai Wook



Stalin street on a sunny winter day, the first and
main street built after the war



Blocks of new flats



Children with their mother
hurrying to the department
↓ store for buying new toys





The Pyongyang Department Store is always crowded
with customers



Children first!



University students on their way to home
after school

Two girls at a bus stop. They are going
to school for an exam



Movie-fans are waiting for the next show at the
Taidongmoon Cinema





Reminiscences of Anti-Japanese Partisan Struggle

JUN MOON SUP



ONE DAY, GENERAL KIM IL SUNG assigned me the task of proceeding to a liaison spot to guide some Comrades who had been dispatched to villages for political work among the inhabitants.

In those days, the partisan unit made it a rule to move the headquarters to another place right after sending out some Comrades for political work, and make the former site of the headquarters the liaison place for them.

I reached my destination towards noon, but could find no one there. I searched round carefully in the forests, but to no avail.

I waited and waited. But the expected Comrades did not turn up. Time went by quickly. It was now one week past the fixed date. But I knew that General Kim Il Sung was deeply concerned about the Comrades, so I could not go back empty-handed. Well aware of the profound concern and love constantly displayed by the General for the partisan fighters, I felt more and more worried as time passed.

Plodding across steep mountains and thick forests, I rapped trees with a big stick, which was the secret method we used when calling each other in mountains. As I rapped trees, the sounds echoed through

the thick forests, but alas, there was no reply.

Many times I reproached myself, for it might probably have been that, though I had run all the way to the liaison place like the devil, I was too late and the Comrades had gone astray. The faces of the Comrades who might be wandering about in forests floated before my eyes. The thought that I had failed to carry out the assigned duty sent a pang through my heart. I kept searching about in the forests, employing all available methods. But all this ended in failure. In the meantime, the time limit for reporting back to the General was up.

This troubled me deeply. If I failed to report back on time, General Kim Il Sung would be more worried about our safety, and probably send some other Comrades in search of us. Crushed and helpless, I thought I had no other way but to go back. Feeling a lump in my throat, I set out on my way back only to find my legs failing me. I couldn't do it. No, I never could.

I turned back again, in the hope of finding the Comrades who might be straying somewhere nearby, calling my name.

Once again I started searching, looking through

the woods in all directions and straining my ears to catch even the faintest sound.

In this way I searched for some time, when suddenly something caught my eye. I noticed some letters cut on the trunk of a big tree. I rushed to the tree and studied them closely. I found that someone had peeled the trunk and written those letters with a piece of charcoal. I could read that Kim Ik Hyun and another Comrade had died of hunger after having fought courageously for the sake of the revolution. I felt as if my heart were freezing.

"What!... died of hunger!" I almost shouted in amazement. "What in the world is this? What a pity that things should have come to this!"

I could hardly endure the thought of the hardships those Comrades must have gone through and the anxiety with which they must have waited for us before they died.

The next moment I clenched my fists, trembling with burning hatred for the enemy.

But under such circumstances it was quite pointless merely to curse the enemy or blame myself for having failed to come to their rescue in time.

Now, I was fired by a determination to find the bodies of those Comrades at all costs, even if they were really dead.

I went on searching for them, calling their names. Of course, I didn't expect that they, or if worst came to worst, their bodies, would be found in this vicinity. They must have hidden themselves somewhere deep in the forests for fear the enemy would lay hands on their bodies in case they died.

Even a hare crouching in a bush or a flutter of a bird flying up sent me running toward it in the hope of discovering the Comrades.

Though I scampered about the whole neighbouring areas, searching for them, my efforts were fruitless.

At wit's end, I again began thinking of going back. But I dared not, I seemed to hear the stern voice of the General who, if I had gone back empty-handed, would have said: "Didn't your conscience sting you when you were turning back leaving behind the Comrades dying of hunger?"

Now, I was totally at a loss as to what to do. I asked myself: "What shall I do? What shall I do to find them?"

I ran about the forests like mad.

It was just at that moment that words of the General flashed in my mind. Once he told the partisan fighters:

"You have to keep all the more cool when the situation is critical, pick out the essential points from among a confusion of things, and stubbornly and boldly push forward in the spirit of a Communist, without hesitation, at any decisive moment. To do so, you have to learn to form a correct judgement

after mature consideration and analysis. Know always to discriminate strictly between hastiness and promptitude."

These words led me to do a little hard thinking. "Yes," I said to myself, "I have first to ponder over what they could have done under the circumstances. Undoubtedly, they must have gone round looking for food, since they were on the brink of starvation."

So thinking, I approached the tree on which the two Comrades noted their own death in anticipation of it.

They must have searched the place where provisions had been stored by former partisan units. Next, they must have gone to the well to fill their stomachs with water, as a starving person does.

So, I hurried to the well from which our Comrades used to drink. The well was lying utterly neglected, almost buried under dry leaves. I couldn't find any trace of people having approached it.

I didn't know where to go next. I was standing motionless in my tracks thinking and thinking—where could have they gone?

Just at that moment, I thought I heard faint groanings coming from somewhere nearby. With bated breath I listened and listened. I moved, step by step, in the direction from which the sound seemed to come. After I had taken several steps, I heard the groanings more clearly and distinctly.

Now, I could see some of the tall grass before me had been trodden down. There was no doubt that someone had walked through the grass.

I went ahead pushing my way through ivy and other vines, straining all my nerves not to miss any trace or sound.

There was a felled large tree lying among a thicket of ivy vines in the forest. And there, under the tree they were lying, facing each other, with dry leaves and grass spread over them for a camouflage. Yes, they were alive! I was not too late!

Upon discovering them still alive, I almost cried out for joy and excitement. But I restrained myself so as not to surprise them, and approached quietly, making my way through the thicket.

They were the very Comrades I had been searching for so madly. But they were more dead than alive, their faces were pallid. I found beside them bones of a horse which the partisan unit had thrown away after eating the meat. I noticed that the Comrades had burned these bones in the fire and nibbled at them to alleviate the pains of hunger.

I untied my knapsack and took out some rice, with which I made gruel. I opened the lips of the two Comrades and put the gruel into their mouth spoonful at a time. I rubbed their limbs and applied artificial respiration.

"Comrades, Comrades, keep up your spirits! General Kim Il Sung sent me for you. Please take heart, Comrades!" I called in their ears.

Several minutes passed in this way. Then, suddenly one of the Comrades opened his eyes. I shouted for joy, "General Kim sent me for you!"

"What?... General Kim? Where... is he?" he said in a weak voice. Some minutes passed and the other one came round. My joy was beyond description. I continued shouting in a choked voice for them to hear: "General Kim Il Sung!"

Now, their eyes recovered some light and their respiration became regular. I was so glad that I pressed my face to their cheeks.

"We firmly believed that the General would send someone for us. That's why we inscribed the letters on the tree, so that in case we died our Comrades might find out and bring our bodies back to where the General was..."

With difficulty I tried to hide my tears from them, while I was helping them eat gruel.

When they recovered some strength, we started on our way back, I carrying them in turn on my back.

Now, they said worriedly: "How are we to meet the General after having lost a Comrade? When we think he will be greatly downhearted upon learning one Comrade has been lost, we feel quite depressed. What shall we do, Comrade Moon Sup?" Then they narrated the story in brief.

* * *

On their way back from the mission of political work, they ran out of provisions. To add to it, the enemy was on their heels. When they managed with difficulty to foil the pursuers, another group of enemy appeared to block their way.

It was under these circumstances that one of their companions began to waver. He seized their weapons while they were washing their faces, and urged them to proceed to the enemy and surrender. He said that no one knew how many scores of years it would take to beat off the Japanese imperialists and liberate the country, now that the Soviet Union had concluded a neutrality pact with Japan. Only some crazy men might remain and fight, he said, but he could not do so because he didn't see any hope of victory.

But the two Comrades tried to persuade the wavering man of the final victory of the partisan fighters. They told him that even though the enemy was seemingly strong for the present and the anti-Japanese partisan forces were small and in a difficult situation, the revolutionary forces were growing

stronger every day under the superb guidance of General Kim Il Sung and thanks to the support of scores of millions of people. Besides, their revolutionary struggle had just aims and vast possibilities for victory. They tried to convince the wavering man of final victory of the partisan struggle.

But he insisted upon going down to a village, saying that the 'punitive operation' of the enemy was becoming more and more intense and there was no food to eat in the mountains. He said that just at the moment when he was dying of hunger, the future could mean nothing to him.

Realizing that it was no use trying to persuade the turncoat of the just cause of the revolution, the two Comrades, glaring at the man with hatred and contempt, said sternly: "Even if the prospects of the revolution are not bright now, we cannot trample upon our own conscience to follow you. How can we desert our Comrades who have fought for more than ten years against the enemy at the cost of their blood, suffering from hunger and cold, laying the foundation for the final victory in the revolution? How can we think only of our own lives when our fatherland and people are going through the hardships of a colonial slave, to follow along after you? Even if we die while going back to the embrace of General Kim Il Sung and our comrades-in-arms, we would rather choose death than follow you. Now, if you want to go, you can go. Only you must leave our weapons."

When it was dark all around that evening, the renegade stole away.

After that, the two Comrades continued groping their way back toward the headquarters. When they arrived where it had been quartered before, they found that the headquarters had moved to some other place. It was a terrible shock to them. But they did not give up. They kept on searching. They ate grass roots and tree bark. After several days they were completely exhausted and often their legs gave way under them.

When they realized they could go no farther, not even one inch ahead, they inscribed the letters on the tree and hidden themselves where I found them.

* * *

Now, we three men were continuing our way towards the headquarters, staggering, falling and again rising to our feet, supporting one another, encouraged by the sole hope of meeting General Kim Il Sung and our dear comrades-in-arms.



Imperialists Quit Africa Day

On December 1, last year, Korean people observed "Imperialists Quit Africa Day." The Korean people expressed their firm solidarity with the African people's national liberation movement against the colonial rule of world imperialists.

On that day, Han Sul Ya, Chairman of the Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, made a public statement.

In his statement Chairman Han Sul Ya denouncing the colonial rule in Africa demanded the imperialists to abolish the colonial rule immediately and withdraw at once from that continent.

In observing the day, every paper in Korea expressed the Korean people's solidarity with the people of Africa.

Rodong Shinmoon commented as follows.

"The colonial rule of world imperialists in Africa is an evil historic remnant of last century. After World War II the people of Africa under the historic circumstances of the socialist system emerging as a world system have risen up in the struggle to break the chain of colonialism and win freedom and national independence following the example of the Asian people. Dawn has begun to break at last over the African continent, once called the 'Dark Continent' and a new era of national liberation has come."

Much success has been scored by the African people in their national liberation movement.

One third of Africa and more than one third of its total population have won independence.

This foretells the inevitable disintegration of the imperialist colonial system.

Being almost completely driven out of

Asia, the imperialists have become more desperate in their attempt to hold on to the African continent as their last "line of defence."

The U.S. imperialists, though they claim they have no colony as such, oppress and exploit the people of Africa with the penetration of U.S. capital into the continent hand in hand with their partners, Britain, France, Spain, Belgium and Portugal. While instigating the age-old colonialists to suppress the national liberation movement of the African people, the U.S. imperialists, disguised as "philanthropist" and "friend," intend to expel gradually the age-old colonialists, and establish their control in Africa.

Pointing out the savagery and viciousness of the colonial policy of the world imperialists in Africa all the papers in Korea stated that it is incompatible with the human conscience in this era.

Rodong Shinmoon stressed as follows. "The days of the imperialist colonial rule in Africa are numbered. Today, the spark of national liberation movement flares up from Tangier, the northern-most tip, to Cape Town, the southern-most tip of Africa. The people of Africa are convinced that, first of all, the existence of the mighty world socialist system is a guarantee for their liberation and independence.

"The peace-loving peoples the world over including all Asian peoples stand firmly on the side of the African people."

Giving encouragement and support to the struggle of the people of Africa for their liberation, freedom and independence, Korean people firmly believe that the imperialist colonial rulers will be swept out of Africa.

Women Built Factory

ONE day in autumn 1958, the chief of the Industrial Department of the Hwangjoo People's Committee was visited by several local women, who demanded, "Now everybody is busy building socialism. How can we stay at home confined to household chores. It makes us feel uncomfortable..."

"So you want to take jobs?" asked the chief.

"No, we wives want to run a factory on our own," answered Jung Sam Nyu, one of the women.

Thus 18 women started to work with 3 indigenous looms and 8 spinning wheels in a little two-room house.

At the start they had no experience. What little experience they had had was during the pre-liberation days when they had woven a few yards of cotton under pressure of poverty.

The Industrial Department of the County People's Committee saw to it that they were provided with 5 improved hand looms and dispatched an expert to help them. They had to learn from this expert, starting with the method of spinning. At first they could weave only a few scores of yards a day. Production made slow progress, and difficulties cropped up one after the other in carding cotton, weaving and starching fabrics.

Aunt Pak In Hwa left the factory, dissatisfied with the operation of indigenous looms and Yang Suk Hoon, a weaver, expressed regret that she had moved here from a large-scale textile mill.

Under these circumstances it was out of the question to develop their factory. They racked their brains to find better ways, and decided to remodel their indigenous looms into improved hand looms. For this purpose they took an improved loom to pieces, and studied every part of the loom. After this they succeeded in turning out 13 improved looms, which lightened their labour and raised their productivity. Soon the number of improved looms had increased to 30.

But they were faced with another problem of expanding the factory building to house all the looms they produced.

They could not expect the building trust to build for them, for the trust was engaged in the large-

scale construction work in the countryside. Some one suggested expanding the factory building on their own, saying, "Didn't we get experience in building houses in war time, though they were clay houses? Let's build the factory with the help of a carpenter."

Thus they set about building a factory building, working in shifts. The building site became animated, and every night smoke from the camp fire spread far and wide over the broad plain.

Disturbed by the noise at the building site, wild geese were seen flying overhead across the night sky. Looking up at the wild birds, Yang said: "The birds seem to be frightened. I am afraid they won't come next year."

"Never worry about that. Next year you will have many girls who work well and are fond of dancing, too" said Jung Sam Nyu, the factory Party chairman, her face beaming with a smile.

By the following spring the banks along the Hwangjoo river had changed greatly. Though they were carpeted with green grass, there was no more marsh land for wild geese. Instead, buildings of the weaving shop, knitting shop, and other factory buildings stood there, and the click of weaving looms blended harmoniously with the sweet melody of orioles.

In a sunny corner a creche was being constructed.

Aunt Pak In Hwa, who once left the factory, returned to work.

Now workers of the factory increased from 18 to 400, of which 150 were skilled workers above 4th grade. In other words almost all of the village women were working in the factory.

The factory was steadily expanding. Not that they had no difficulties at all.

One day in early May last year, the factory women were in gloom. They were standing in silence, looking at the 40 bodies of power looms that stood in lines in front of the engineering and repair shop. Only a few of the women were filing off the rough surface of parts for the power looms. Some one grumbled.

"Don't try what is beyond your reach. We had better stop producing power looms and work in the indigenous way."

They had started to make power looms from early spring that year. It was not easy work. Apart from shortage of steel and timber, they had no experience in casting metal or making necessary parts. Some were sent to other counties to learn the casting technique, others were instructed to collect scrap iron. For lumber they used those which had been taken off the Hwangjoo Bridge which was rebuilt with iron.

In this way they produced bodies and cast parts

for 40-odd power looms. However, they came across more trouble. Because of the roughness of the cast they found it difficult to assemble the parts well. They had to file off the rough surface of each part, which took much time. At the rate they were going it would take them too long time. Disputes arose among them. Some demanded that they should stop trying to produce power looms until the factory was equipped with sufficient facilities.

But Jung Sam Nyu opposed this. She said they were in bad need of machine tools, and proposed to make them.

"How can you produce machine tools when we find it difficult to produce even a power loom?" one of her co-workers asked, "You are a careerist, pursuing fame."

Jung Sam Nyu gritted her teeth with irritation. At this juncture the county Party organization came to their help. The Sariwon Combined Factory which has been registering success in the machine-tool-multiplying-movement rendered them technical assistance. Encouraged by this move, the local women started to produce machine tools with scrap iron. At last they succeeded in turning out a lathe, a boring machine and a milling machine.

The women became confident and wanted to produce 100 power looms instead of 40. From the middle of July that year, they set about building another factory buildings to house the 100 power looms. However, difficulties were not over.

Cement and bricks were available but timber was beyond their reach. They could not wait until they were provided with timber, for brick laying was in rapid progress. And to make the case worse, cloudy days continued heralding the coming of rainy season. The women became impatient.

The thick forest resounded with the thud of falling trees. Wild birds flitted from tree to tree frightened by the sound. For three days now the tree felling team members of the Hwangjoo Textile Factory had been working, Jung Sam Nyu and Yang Suk Hoon among them. They had already fulfilled their target, felling 40 cubic metres of timber, but they had no means of transport. Although it was difficult to carry the timber to the riverside, one kilometre away, there was no other way but to cover the distance on foot. From the riverside they were to carry it on ox-carts.

It looked like rain anytime when they started to climb down the mountain, carrying the timber. When they reached the riverside, it began to pour.

They could not expect ox-carts coming out in such hellish weather.

The women were compelled to wait in a riverside cottage until the sky cleared up. They became heavy hearted. No one spoke, each thinking her own thoughts.

Jung Sam Nyu was recalling her past when she was withdrawing from the front through a deep valley in Kangwon Province wet to the bone. Those were days of suffering, no food, no contact with the rear... and then the sad news of her father, who was killed in Heukkyo by the enemy.

Jung Sam Nyu stood up as if shaking off all these sad memories.

"What are you thinking about?" asked Yang Suk Hoon.

"Nothing, I was just recalling the days of the war..." Jung Sam Nyu answered.

"I can understand," said Yang. "We had a big flood in 1951, just one year after the outbreak of the war. I was then only 13 years old. My parents were killed by the enemy and I was shivering under the tree with my younger brother."

Thus each had some bitter memory. Their conversation went on, and the rain continued to pour. They feared their half-finished walls in the factory would be crumbling and the parts for the power looms rusted. These thoughts made them more impatient. At last they decided to make rafts without waiting for the arrival of ox-carts.

The rain stopped just the next day after they had formed a few rafts. But at first none of the women had the courage to get on the rafts which would flow down the rapid currents.

The first to jump on the raft was Jung Sam Nyu and Yang Suk Hoon. Then other women followed their example.

Three days later their first rafts were nearing the banks of the Hwangjoo river which was still shrouded in darkness. The silence of early dawn was broken by sound of the footsteps running down the banks. They were their co-workers and the village women folks, all shouting hurrah, "Here comes our rafts."

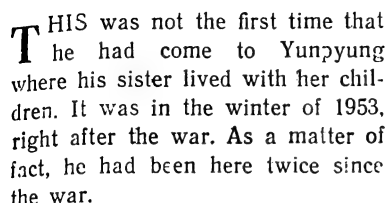
The eastern sky began to glow with the dawn. The contour of Jung Sam Nyu and Yang Suk Hoon on the approaching raft could be clearly seen outlined against the morning sky.

In a little over one year since the June 1958 Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea the number of local industrial factories increased to more than 2,000. In 1959 the output value of local industry will account for 27.5 per cent of nation's gross industrial output value, and 45.1 per cent of the entire output volume of the articles of popular consumption. In the course of the struggle for achieving these successes we registered many moving incidents defying description.

The heroic deeds of the women of the Hwangjoo Textile Factory represent just one of such touching stories.

HAN JAI SUNG

KOREA TODAY



He still remembered so well how the village looked when he came to Yunpyung after the war. The entire village was demolished by the enemy planes. The village people were living in huts dug out at the foot of hills. There was hardly any field that was not pitted with bomb craters. And how the people lived! The war was over. But the village folk did not know where to begin with farming. There were not enough people. Not a single draught animal was available. Everything was in chaos.

She was the only kin he had in the northern part of the country. He simply did not want to see her tackling the impossible. He thought the odds were too great. It was during the war time that she came over to this side with her two children from Kangneung in South Korea. He could not see how she could stand the difficult time sure to come.

"Kyung Ho, I know why you're telling me to move. But I think you're wrong. The soil is good here. Things are in an awful condition because of the war. But the people are very good to me. I don't think we'll move."

Now he had come to the village of Yunpyung to call on her. He was discharged from the army, and he was on his way to Hichun where he

CHUN SE BONG



As he approached the village, the sun disappeared beyond the western mountains. It was getting dark, so he hastened his steps. He was trying to picture how his sister would look after all these years. The nephews must be grown-up boys now...

There was the long embankment lined with birch trees. Over that rise was Yunpyung.

But how different things looked. When he climbed the embankment a village brightly lit with electricity spread out at his feet. For a moment, he thought he might have come to the wrong village. No, it was not the wrong village. He could tell from the mountains that he was in Yunpyung village where his sister lived. He said to himself:

He knew that the electrification of the countryside was going ahead at full speed, but he never expected to see a remote village like Yunpyung with electric lights.

He noticed that the road he was walking along was no more a mountain path. It was a highway. And on either side of the road there was something like an embankment. It was a stretch of embankment for irrigation. Judging from

When he reached the village, he found people working under electric lights in front of a building which looked like a warehouse. The people were threshing. About a dozen electric-run threshers were humming busily. Bundles of rice stalks were piled up around the warehouse.

Li Kyung Ho again felt that it might be he had made a mistake in the village. He approached one of the women workers who was raking up the rice bundles.

"Pardon me, but please tell me if this is Yunpyung village."

"Yes! This is Yunpyung."

"Then, could you tell me if there is a person named Li Kyung Sook in your co-op?"

"Certainly, she is our livestock team leader."

"Will you please tell me where her house is?"

"Do you see the house by the pole where the speaker is attached to over there? Her house is right by it. May I ask who is looking for her?"

"I am her brother."

"Oh, then you must be... we heard you're to be discharged soon."

"That's right!"

Upon learning that he was her brother, the woman was particularly kind.

When he reached the house, his sister rushed out in surprise, offering to help with his suit case, and talking all the while.

"My, my! I did not expect you. Why didn't you let me know you were coming? I'm certainly glad to see you..." Then turning to her two sons she spoke in an excited voice.

“Come on, Young Sik! Here is your uncle, Kyung Ho. You too Young Keun. Say hello to your uncle.”

They were two big boys all right. But they were perhaps a little shy, they just kept watching, smiling at their uncle whom they had not seen so many years. Their mother said:

“What’s the matter with you children? Here is your uncle and you cannot even greet him properly.”

When they sat down in the room Kyung Ho asked his two nephews one by one.

“What school are you in?”

“I’m in the senior middle this year,” answered Young Sik. Then the younger one Young Keun told his uncle that he was in the second year of junior middle.

Both boys looked healthy. For that matter, he thought, contrary to his expectation, his sister looked younger and full of life. As brother and sister sat face to face, there were so many things to talk about. It was Kyung Sook who started to ask:

“Well, how are the children? I was sorry to hear your wife was not well after her confinement. How is she now?”

“Oh, she is all right now... By the way, sister. Things surely have changed here in this village... When did you build this house?”

“We built it last spring... Things are really getting better for us.”

“I can see that myself.”

Kyung Ho noticed as he entered the house that it was spotlessly clean. There were three rooms in the house. Chests of drawers, a sewing machine were to be seen in one room. A big clock was hanging in one of the rooms. In the room

which children evidently used for their study stood bookcases and a table. The kitchen was well equipped.

The sister suddenly said.

“You know, as our life keeps improving, I cannot help feeling sad in a way, very sad.”

“I know, but I don’t think you should feel that way. It doesn’t do any good.”

“But I cannot help it. If I wake up in the middle of the night, I just cannot go back to sleep. On a night like that, I go out to the pig pens and cow sheds to look after the animals.”

As she spoke, tears rushed to her eyes. Kyung Ho too felt a lump in his throat. He took out his cigarette case and lighted a cigarette.

For a few minutes neither of them spoke. The mother they had left behind in Kangneung was always in their thoughts. And Kyung Ho knew that his sister was also thinking about her husband.

The People’s Army was moving steadily southward. Her husband came out to help the People’s Army in the work of transport... Then there came the temporary retreat. He was caught by the enemy and shot.

Evidently she tried to push away all these thoughts. Her voice sounded cheerful again.

“We must work hard. Diligently and faithfully we must work for carrying out the Party decisions and policy. Then, I am sure, we shall get to see our mother soon.”

With these words she went out to kitchen and started to prepare supper. Left alone in the room, Kyung Ho sensed not only the village but his sister had changed a great deal. There was something different in her voice and expression, he thought.

After supper she changed into her work clothes and went out to the animal shed. She said that there would be a meeting of livestock team members.

Li Kyung Ho decided to turn in early and lay down beside his nephews. But somehow sleep did not come to him easily. The sound of the peaceful breathing of his two nephews came regularly. His thoughts ran to his sister, then to her two sons who were sleeping beside him. Who made it possible for this family to enjoy such a life as they do now? When they came over to the North they had nothing. But, look now, how abundant their life has become! He grasped the hands of his nephews tightly...

When the morning came he decided to have a good look at the village. The village is covered with new tile-roofed houses and tree-lined wide roads ran through the village. Not a sign of war damage remained. There were two or three big warehouses, a two-storey club house besides a clinic, nurseries and a kindergarten, and stores.

There was a farm implements repair shop by one of the warehouses, almost as big as a farm implements factory. Right next to it was a woodwork shop. The sound of hammering and sawing could be heard. The repair shop and the woodwork shop were equipped with lathes and woodcutting machines. He was told that these two shops turned out many farm implements such as weeders (animal driven), drying fans, fertilizer sprayers, and corn seeders.

The whole village was busy as bees. Truck after truck was rushing along the new highway with heavy loads of vegetables and other things.

Kyung Ho could hardly believe his eyes. All this took place during

the past six years, in this remote village. He came to the end of the village. No more was to be seen the old bridge. Now a brand new cement bridge spanned the stream. The once bomb craters-ridden fields were turned into fertile lands. One could tell how rich the soil was from the size of stumps of rice stalks after the cutting.

Li Kyung Ho called on the chairman of the co-op. When he explained to the chairman that he was a brother of the livestock team leader, the chairman most cordially welcomed him.

The chairman told him a lot about the co-op: How the co-op members worked this year, how they removed 15,000 cubic metres of dirt to build a reservoir, how the fields in the mountainous region have been turned into rich paddy fields, which was once thought to be utterly impossible. The paddy fields know no drought as the irrigation system has been installed. Then the chairman with much pride added that they had harvested nearly 20 tons of rice per jungbo on an average this year. He continued:

"Your sister Kyung Sook is very dear to us. Our co-op has done much work. Particularly she played a big part in developing the livestock breeding in our co-op."

According to his words, Kyung Sook started out as a hog breeder. Not only she was a good worker, but she had good ideas about the work. Whenever there was a meeting dealing with the question of livestock breeding, it was always she who came up with right idea. She had been working as the team's leader since last year and things were getting better all the time.

The valley of Dukkol was filled with animals. But it was Li Kyung Sook who transferred all the animals to this valley turning it into a stock-breeding centre. The chairman added that there were some 60

members in the co-op's livestock team. But under her leadership orders were carried out to the letter by the team members.

Kyung Ho wanted to visit Dukkol to see for himself what his sister had done. The chairman was only too glad to take him there.

It was a big valley. On the one side there were fields where arrow-roots and Jerusalem artichokes were growing. The chairman told him that these fodder fields were just opened up last spring. On the slopes were numerous pens. Cattle and sheep were leisurely grazing. Thousands of chickens and ducks were to be seen by the stream. The chairman gave him the following figures. There were 2,000 pigs, 720 cattle, 950 sheep, 5,000 rabbits besides some 10,000 chickens and ducks. These were the chairman's words:

"Rearly, this is a big project. Taking into account the geographical situation of our co-op, we are developing livestock breeding, at the same time laying stress on farming. It is our plan next year to expand our livestock breeding work. By then the animals will be on the other side of the valley, too".

When they reached the animal shed, they found Kyung Sook and milkmaids milking the cows. This co-op had converted some 20 Korean cows into milkers, giving as much as 20 kilograms a day.

Kyung Ho walked around to see the animal sheds. Every place was well kept. Every cow, pig and sheep looked healthy. He noticed her sister busily looking into every shed, with a little notebook and a pencil in her hand. There was another surprise for him because he knew her sister had been illiterate.

He asked the chairman:

"You mean my sister can write now?"

"That's right. She went to school when the war ended. Now she

reads daily papers regularly. She even prepares her own reports."

It was quite late when Kyung Ho came back from Dukkol with her sister.

As they approached the village again, Kyung Ho saw the bright electric lights. There was the sound of busy threshers, music from loud speaker, and children's jolly voices—the village presented a lively scene.

Kyung Ho paused to look at the village a few moments. His sister said:

"Come on, Kyung Ho. Let's go. It's getting late!"

"But, sister! I'm so moved by the changes that have taken place in this village... I've never expected that this village would change so much. And you, my sister, have done such good work! Do you ever think that some day things will be like this in Kangneung?"

"Sure! That keeps me going like this. Just think of the joy when we, you and I, will rebuild our dear native village."

"How glad our mother will be on that day!"

"...I only hope she'll be all right until then!"

Their thoughts ran to the South, to Kangneung where their mother was. The poor woman! She had been too long subjected to a hard life. She was trodden upon by the Americans. Her son and daughter only wished she could share their joy and happiness.

They said little more. But in their hearts they were saying to each other: That's right! We must work harder to bring about that day even one day sooner. Then we'll turn the entire land of 3,000 ri of Korea into a fertile and rich land. We will build new happiness here. Please, mother, keep well because you'll see us!

The busy trucks sped on, and the music from the loudspeaker grew livelier.



KOREA'S civilization goes a very long way back. Through her history many notable cultural achievements have been scored. Particularly, the invention of metal types in the early 13th century is worthy of special mention.

Between the 11th century and the 12th century the feudal economy made rapid strides in Korea, bringing about the development of handicraft. Exquisite metal articles and handicraft works made of gold, silver and copper were produced in large quantities. Some of them were exported to China, Japan, Kitan, and even to Arabia.

Already in the period of Silla Dynasty (57 B.C.-935 A.D.), copper seals and brass bells were cast. A little later bells with inscriptions appeared. The bell of Sangwonsa Temple, cast in 725 (the 24th year of King Sungduk, Silla Dynasty), and the bell of Bongduksa Temple, cast in 770 (the 6th year of King Hegong), are some of the famous ones made during this period. It was customary to inscribe characters on the bells in those days. The bell-casting method was adopted by the Koryu (918-1392) people who later succeeded in inscribing characters on coins, too.

In 1097 during the period of Koryu Dynasty a mint was established, where metal coins with inscriptions, Haidong Tongbo (meaning "Korean currency") were minted. (*History of Koryu*, Vol. 79)

The making of copper seals, bells and coins with inscriptions in relief contributed greatly to the later invention of metal types.

As in the period of Silla Dynasty, Buddhism exercised much influence over the feudal society in the period of Koryu Dynasty. So much so that the feudal rulers of Koryu believed that they could repulse foreign invasion under the protection of Buddha. Hence they paid great attention to printing Buddhist scriptures. In 1011 when the Kitans invaded the country, the rulers of Koryu undertook a project of engraving blocks for printing Buddhist Scriptures. 6,000 volumes, known as the Great Buddhist scriptures were printed, taking 60 years. In 1086, 4,700 more volumes, Supplementary Great Buddhist Scriptures, were turned out.

This vast number of blocks and books were burnt in 1232 when the Mongols invaded Korea. The feudal rulers of Koryu Dynasty, so eager to retrieve the lost Great Buddhist Scriptures, again set about in 1236, during the war, engraving another set of blocks which was completed in 1251. Altogether there were 81,258 blocks, and with them 6,895 volumes were printed. This set of printing blocks is called the *Eighty Thousand Great Buddhist Scriptures of Koryu*, a landmark in the history of printing in Korea.

It was in the 11th century that books began to be printed on a large scale. Not only in Kaikyung

(today's Kaesong), the capital, but in such local cultural centres as Choongjoo, Ansu (today's Haijoo), Namwon, various kinds of books were printed. At the beginning of the 12th century, a book-store was attached to the Kookjakam (national university), and in 1059 many anthologies and various kinds of books were put out in Ansu, Kyungsan, Namwon, and other places. Thus block printing reached a new high in those days.

According to historical documents, it was around the beginning of the 13th century that metal (copper) types were used for the first time in Korea.

In the epilogue to the *Shinsu Sangjung Ryemoon* (revised edition of the Koryu Code), Li Kyoo Bo (1168-1241), in place of the publisher Jinyang Kong Choi I (Jinyang Kong is a title given to Choi I by the King.), wrote as follows: (The epilogue to the *Shinsu Sangjung Ryemoon* is compiled in the *Tongkook Li Sang Kook Jip*, a collection of the works of Li Kyoo Bo, the real author of the epilogue.)

"Following the order of King Injong (1123-1146)

Ancient

Pyungjangsa (a minister of the then government) Choi Yoon I and 16 other vassals edited a code of 50 volumes on the basis of the study of etiquette of the past and entitled it *Sangjung Ryemoon*. However, as time went by, the books became so worn that it was difficult to read them.

"My father (Choi Choong Hun, the then regent-Ed), having revised the edition, made two copies of them and kept one at the office and another at home. Thoughtful indeed he was! On the occasion of transfer of the capital (in 1232 due to the Mongolian invasion) the officials in confusion failed to take the books with them, and the one copy of the books kept at home was the only one that remained. Therefore I have (Choi I—Ed) newly printed with metal types 28 sets of the books to distribute to the government offices concerned. The officials concerned must keep

them with care." He did not describe the date of issue, but one can easily draw conclusion that these books were published between 1234 and 1241, from the fact that Choi I was conferred the title of Jinyang Kong in 1234 and Li Kyoo Bo died in 1241.

The epilogue to the second edition of the *Jeungdoka* by a Buddhist priest named Nam Myung Chun also proves that metal types were widely used early in the 13th century.

According to the Buddhist priest, the first edition of the book was printed with metal types, and the second edition was issued in the year of "Kihai." The lunar calendar "Kihai" was 1239 A.D., the 26th year of King Kojong of Koryu Dynasty, when Jinyang Kong Choi I was at the post of Joongsu-ryung (regent).

Furthermore, a Frenchman Morris Courant, making reference to a book entitled *Booljo Jikjishimche Julyo* by Buddhist priest Baikwoon, an extract of a book on Buddhism, wrote in his book, *Bibliotèque Coreen*,

that in 1377 books were printed with metal types at the Hongduksa Temple in Chungjoo.

It would be logical to conclude that metal types were made in the period earlier than that of the transfer of government because it is unthinkable to invent them in such a time of great confusion. And it is obvious that without experiences in printing books with metal types, such a vast publication as that of *Sangjung Ryemoon* would be impossible. Therefore one may well judge that metal types were invented during the period between the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century.

It is the contention of Professor J.D. Bernal of Britain in his recent book, *Science in History* (London, 1954), that metal types in Korea began to be used for the first time in the 14th century. E.N. Kachprzak wrote in the Soviet journal *Printing Industry*, No. 5 for 1951 under the title of "Origin of Printing in Korea" that it was around the end of the 14th century or the beginning of the 15th century when the use of metal types in Korea began. This puts the use of metal types in Korea about 30 years before Gutenberg's metal types.

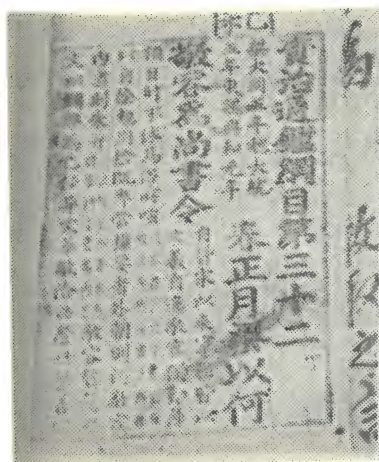
However, in view of the existing historical data, cited above, these arguments are untenable.

The invention of metal types in our country was not made overnight. Before the metal types wooden, gourd, then porcelain types were used. It is quite understandable that porcelain types should appear in those days, because the porcelain of Koryu reached the highest level in the world. The exact date of the appearance of porcelain types is yet to be determined. But it is assumed, judging from various records, the porcelain types were made before the metal types. It is believed that prior to the invention of porcelain types, clay types and ceramic types were made.

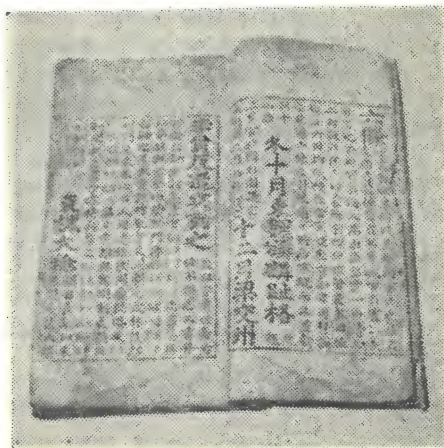
Due to the complicated situation of the times at home and abroad and degeneration of the ruling

PAK SHI HYUNG

Metal Types



Pages of the Jachi Tongkam, a Chinese history, printed in 1436 with metal types. The large-sized letters were printed with lead types and the medium- and small-sized letters were printed with the copper types made in 1434



circles, publication fell into decay for over a century. It was, however, in the latter part of the 14th century that printing books with metal types became active again. According to the *History of Koryu*, in 1392 the King established Sujukwon, and made it found types and print books. And according to the epilogue of *Tai Myung Ryool Jikhai* (Interpretation of Laws of Ming), the Sujukwon was handed down to Li Dynasty. It described that in 1395, the fourth year of King Taijo of Li Dynasty, the *Tai Myung Ryool Jikhai* was printed at the Sujukwon.

Printing books with metal types made long strides in the 15th century during the Li Dynasty when an epochal change took place in the development of feudal society. The newly-risen feudal forces headed by Li Sung Kye, taking advantage of the people's struggle against the feudal rulers of Koryu Dynasty, held the reins of power. They enforced a series of affirmative policies in order to soothe the surging people's fighting spirit and consolidate their class foothold, resulting in the growth, to a certain degree, of production. With the upsurge of production, culture began to flower. Great achievements were registered in the study of history, geography, astronomy, music, mathematics, medical science, agronomy, etc. The *Hoonmin Jungeum*, Korean alphabet, was created in this period.

On the basis of the development of science and culture, founding types and printing books made rapid strides. It was required to found more types to meet the growing demand for books. Therefore a type-foundry was set up in March 1403. The following passage from the *Taijong Shillok* (annals of King Taijong) Vol. 5 reveals the purpose of establishing the type-foundry.

"As books are short in our country, the people encounter difficulty if they wish to study. Without opening the people's minds it is difficult to administer a state. So it is the plan to publish large numbers of books for the officials and students."

Establishment of a type-foundry by the government signifies that the work of founding types was carried out on a large scale. In a few months from February 19, 1403, when the type-foundry was established, hundreds of thousands of types were turned out.

The types founded that year were copper types. None of them can be found now, but according to records, they were not so refined. These types were remodeled between 1420 and 1421, being more refined in shape, size and style of characters. With the remodeling of types the technique of type-setting also reached a new high. Then in 1436 lead and brass types were made.

The types made in different date were diverse in shape, size and style, and many of them were lost.

Therefore it was difficult sometimes to print a book with one set of types only. In such cases the copper types made in 1434 was the model for founding supplementary types. And in 1573 the old types were all remodeled into new ones.

In the 16th century, a newspaper *Jobo* was printed in Seoul. Though it was banned shortly afterwards by the ruling circles, it stimulated to a considerable degree the development of type-founding and book-printing.

During the Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea in the late 16th century, a great number of types were lost or taken away by the invaders. According to a supplement to the *Study of Ancient China* by Taisuke Hayashi, a Japanese scholar, of the Korean metal types taken away by the Japanese in those days, over 6,500 are still to be found in the Nanki Bunko, a library. However, in 1668 steps were taken to found types to replenish those lost. The number of types made at that time was about 60,000. And they were made of iron because the other metals were short as a consequence of the war.

It was at the beginning of the 18th century that publication began to thrive again. Having healed the war scars, the economy began to develop again. Many books were written, stimulating the development of printing technique. In those days, books were published not only by the government but also by the people.

Following the cultural upsurge, type-founding became more active. Beginning from 1700, numerous copper types were founded. In 1772, 150,000 copper types were made, 150,000 more in 1777, and 300,000 more between 1795 and 1796.

During the period from the beginning of 13th century to 1870, more than 630 years, types were founded on over 30 occasions, and the total number reached several millions.

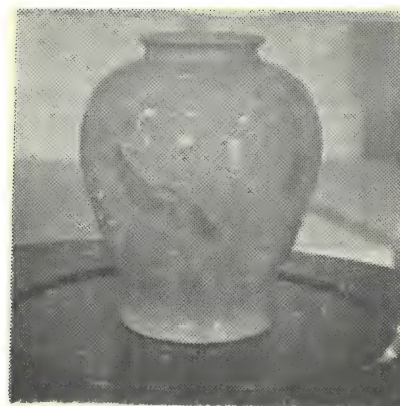
Thus the existing records reveal that metal types were used in Korea over 200 years earlier than the appearance of the Gutenberg's, traditionally accepted as the first metal types in Europe.

The Korean metal types, invented for the first time in the world, contributed greatly to the development of printing not only in Korea, but also in the neighbouring countries such as China, Mongolia, and Japan, and the rest of the world.

This is what Chang Hsiu-min, a Chinese scholar, wrote on printing in Korea:

"The achievement of the Korean people in printing is worth special mention in the history of printing. They founded metal types in large quantities for the first time in the world. This signifies a great contribution of the Korean people to world civilization."

Korean Handicrafts



A celadon vase
with carp

Connoisseurs of handicrafts value the symmetrical beauty and elegance of the Korean handicraft articles, which give the impression of simplicity and purity. With simple and graceful shapes, colours and decorations, Korean handicraft works produce the effect of the natural beauty, gorgeous yet simple.

Celadon of the Koryu dynasty (918-1392) and white porcelain of the Li dynasty (1392-1910) are good examples.

Our handicrafts are rich in variety, for they are produced by various methods.

There are lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl, porcelain, metalware, stoneware, articles made of grass, as well as articles made of horse hair or horn sheets.

Lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl is one of our typical handicraft works. It goes without say-

ing that lacquerware has its origin in Japan and Vietnam, where lacquer painting has been developed to a high level. But Korean lacquerware has its own originality and national character in that it is inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

Our country produces in quantities good-quality lacquer. Rainbow-coloured abalone shells found in the south sea of our country are good materials for handicraft arts of mother-of-pearl. This rich natural resource and the long tradition of formative arts have accelerated the development of our handicraft industry.

Lacquer painting was known as far back in the period of Kokuryo, judging from the coloured basket now preserved in the Central Historical Museum.

But lacquer painting came to possess a unique style in the period

of the Li dynasty, along with the development of woodwork industry.

Lacquerware is usually decorated with designs inlaid with abalone or white shells on the lacquer painted ground.

Lacquer itself has its own lustre of soft and deep colour, and when it is inlaid with white shells, unique decorative beauty is produced, which is modest and yet striking in appearance.

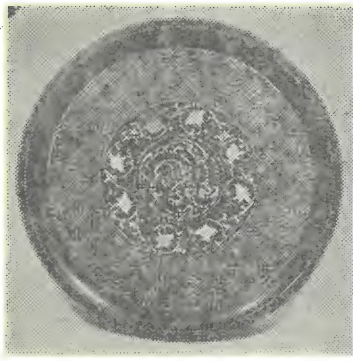
Thanks to such decorative value and the quality of lacquer which resists humidity, oxidation and alkaline reaction, lacquerware industry developed rapidly for making stationery boxes, treasure boxes, various decorative articles and folding screens.

With the improvement of people's life and the change of the mode of life, the lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl is expanding its variety and great changes are being registered in the form and style of their decorative designs.

So far geometrical designs, arabesque and Bosanghwa (symbolizing longevity and happiness) designs were used, but many of our young craftsmen who distinguished themselves in developing decorative arts, boldly introduced into their works new designs depicting animals, plants, socialist construction sites and beautiful landscapes,



A silver-filgree
tray



A lacquer tray inlaid with mother-of-pearl

thereby adding to the beauty of the mother-of-pearl inlaid handicrafts.

This opened up a new phase in the development of lacquer painting.

Recently handicraft arts are more encouraged along with the development of local industry.

Our porcelain has a long history. And we cannot talk about the Korean handicraft works without referring to the celadon of Kokuryo or the white porcelain of the Li dynasty.

But our porcelain industry could not enjoy uninterrupted development. It once declined due to the influx of Japanese handicraft articles. However, since liberation our porcelain industry has been revived and is now rapidly developing.

Our forefathers brought out colours of porcelain by regulating heat of the kiln and using diverse kinds of clay, blue-green, grey, milk-white, bluish white, etc. They also introduced many kinds of decorating methods. They formed the clay into shapes of various objects, used various carving methods such as relief, bas and inlay, painted grass leaves and other objects on the body of the article by making use of some special sorts of clay, and sometimes the clay mixed with many sorts of coloured clay, cobalt, oxidized iron, oxidized copper, etc. They discovered how to ensure the hardness of the ware.

Thanks to their achievements in the research of pottery and porcelain in our ceramic ware holds a unique place in this field.

As a genre of our national handicrafts, woodwork began to develop in the period of the Li dynasty. It is connected with making furniture and wooden ware for daily use.

Our craftsmen in the past laid stress on utility in making furniture, not neglecting aesthetic value. They trimmed the furniture with metal pieces. This is a peculiar characteristic of our woodwork.

Today the woodwork taking over the tradition formed during the Li dynasty is making further development.

Many kinds of wood with diverse grain and colours are used in woodwork. Inlay has been boldly applied in making wooden ware. Designs for decorating woodwork are diverse and fresh thanks to the effective use of their natural beauty of wood.

Today colourful woodenware are being turned out in large quantities.

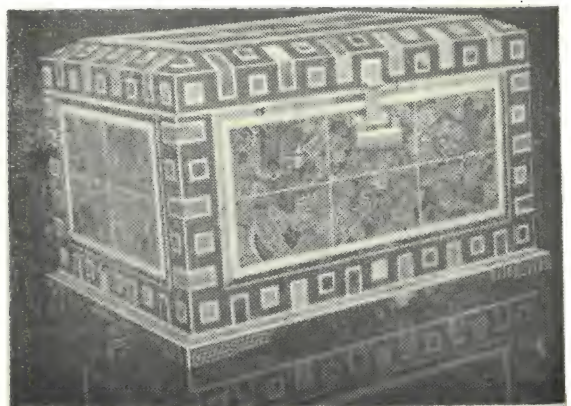
There is a special genre in our handicrafts. That is the horn and bone work, which is used mainly in making chests, cabinets, toilet boxes, and the like. These works with various designs made by combining soft black, soft brown, or grey coloured horn sheets and white coloured bone sheets are characterized by the combination of

simplicity and ornateness. In the past only natural colours of horn and bone were available for designing, but diverse colours have come into use, because today horn and bone can be dyed.

Our craftsmen make handbags, boxes, trays and other articles of horse hair. This craftsmanship goes a long way back to the feudal ages when hats and caps for the nobility were made of horse hair. This has developed into a special genre in our handicrafts.

Besides all these, the making of articles with special kinds of dried grass also constitutes a genre in this field. Various kinds of bags and mats with floral designs made of dried leaves or stalks of grass have their own special beauty. Particularly mats with colourful, floral designs made of cyperus exalatus is famous at home and abroad. Such floral mats have been widely used in Korea like carpets in Europe. It is very interesting that only straight, parallel lines are permitted in the designing. Now, the designs are not limited to flower patterns. Everyday life of the people who are building socialism is reflected in the designs.

In general, our traditional handicrafts are making further development in form and design in conformity with the actual life of the people and their tastes. Moreover, mechanization is gradually being introduced in this line of work.



A horn-sheet-covered chest



New Year Present

LI JA EUNG

New Year is the most joyful of all festivals in Korea. For days on end people get busy preparing for New Year's feast, and children count on their fingers how many nights are left before they celebrate the holiday.

One evening, Hi Sook, my eight-year-old daughter and first-year pupil in primary school, asked me, "Daddy, how many nights have I to sleep before the New Year?"

"Seven," I replied.

"Seven nights? I wish time would fly fast. Daddy, what are you going to give me as a New Year present?"

Previously I had consulted with my wife about what present we should give to Hi Sook, but I wanted to know her wish.

"What would you like to have?"

"I want a pair of new shoes with embroidered flowers. Sook Ja's father bought a pair for her."

Sook Ja was her school mate living next door, and her father was a turner of the Pyongyang Machine-building Factory.

"Yes, I'll buy a pair for you. And what else do you want?"

"A white overcoat. My friends are calling me a weasel because of my grey coat."

"Really! But what do you expect to be called in a white overcoat? Won't they call you a white rabbit then?"

"White rabbit is better than a weasel. And many children are wearing white overcoats."

"Then you shall have it, too. Now tell me your last wish!"

"Oh, I'll leave it with you to decide, Daddy!" Hi Sook answered, her face beaming with a smile.

I recalled the days of my childhood when no child wanted to sleep on New Year's Eve, believing that if he slept, his eyebrows would turn grey. Children usually stayed up the last night of the year, playing *Yutnori* (a kind of dice game). Naturally their concern was to get a few coppers to buy a set of *Yut*. But it was hopeless for me to get a copper from my poor parents, who were tenant peasants gripped by abject poverty. I could not dream of New Year presents.

But the story is quite different with our growing generation. My eight-year-old daughter is not only familiar with the terms of New Year presents, but she wants to have a pair of new shoes and an overcoat.

It is a great joy for parents to see their children grow up happily. An old saying has it, "Ten years is enough to change the appearance of mountains and rivers." Yes, ten years brought about tremendous changes in our country. No wonder, people are saying that ours is the era of "miracles."

Children growing in this miraculous era do not know the bitterness once their parents experienced.

I recalled a sad event which took place on a New Year's Eve long ago. I told my little daughter the story of a beggar boy.

"It happened on New Year's Eve when I was a little child. I was going to visit one of my friends. And on my way there I saw a little boy in rags, shivering in cold and hunger. He was begging a bowl of rice standing in front of a big house belonging to a rich man called Pak. I knew the master of the house was overfed with delicious food. The boy would be given a bowl of rice on this special eve, I expected. But contrary to my expectation, Pak's wife, coming out of the inner room, struck the boy with a stick, saying 'take this.' The boy ran away in fright."

Suddenly I saw tears welling up in my daughter's eyes.

Hi Sook asked me, "What is a beggar boy? Why did he have no home and no food?"

This question made me realize that I had made a gross mistake in telling her a story about a beggar boy. How can a child of eight years understand the situation of a beggar boy. Wasn't it long time since beggars had disappeared in our country?

I had to explain the meaning of the word beggar to Hi Sook, who was only dreaming to have a pair of new shoes with embroidered flowers or a white overcoat.

In the past New Year meant sorrow and lament for the poor people. Now the words of sorrow and lament have become alien to our children. They welcome the

New Year with ever fresh happiness and joy, bidding farewell to the old year. On New Year's Eve I took Hi Sook to a department to buy her a pair of new shoes, a white overcoat and other New Year presents.

The department was crowded with customers, each buying New Year presents.

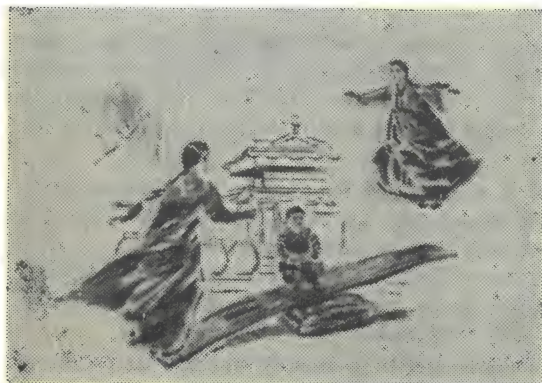
"Hi Sook, what are you going to give me?" I asked

her coming out of the department.

Hi Sook smiled and answered, "I will dance in my new shoes to wish you a happy New Year."

"Yes, that's an idea," I said.

All people we came across in the street seemed to be happy. We walked toward home along the street decorated with festival illuminations.



Seesawing

Every country, every nation has its own way of celebrating the New Year. And the Koreans are no exception.

When one speaks of the New Year celebrations, usually he refers to the events taking place on the first day of the year. However, the New Year celebrations start on New Year's Eve.

In olden days, it was said, if one slept on the last day of the year, one's eyebrows would turn gray. Every house hung up a lantern and the whole family stayed up together to see the New Year coming in. Then in the early hours of the morning a memorial service was held for the departed ancestors. After breakfast it was customary for the people to call on their parents, relatives and elders to present New Year greetings.

But nowadays in every work place and in every school a New Year celebration is held on the New Year's Eve. For the children, a special New Year gathering is held, where many children come in beautiful, colourful Korean

costumes. And on this night the streets are decorated for the holiday.

Work places and factory club houses where New Year celebrations are held are colourfully bedecked. The celebrations are varied. There is usually a big banquet where many toasts are given in honour of the New Year. Then art circle members give performances which are followed by group dancing. Very often the New Year celebrations are an all night affair.

A typical game for the New Year celebration is the girls' seesaw playing. Accompanied by the rhythmical sound of the seesaw playing the girls sing:

*Until you see the pines of the hill
High you go.
Planted a *doe of beans
That I borrowed from the neighbour.
But when harvested it became a *mal.
Planted one mal
Harvested one *sum.*

* (doe, mal and sum are the dry measure units of Korea.)

In times gone by Korean women's life was confined to the domains of the household according to the old customs of the feudalistic society. Very seldom women were seen outside of their front gates. Only the seesaw playing gave them a glimpse of the outside world over the tall fences. Not only that, they could display their beauty. There are such old sayings in Korea: "If you play seesaw in January, you will have no foot trouble for the rest of the year," or "Unless you play seesaw before you get married, you won't give birth to many sons!" Seesawing was not only for the New Year celebrations but also a popular game for the girls throughout year. Today, the game of seesaw takes an important place in the field of traditional Korean games for the girls.

Speaking of the New Year celebrations one cannot omit mentioning the special holiday food.

Koreans eat rice regularly. But in January the people usually have

New Year Celebrations

duk-kook (rice cake soup) and *mandoo-kook* (dumpling soup). It is almost unthinkable to celebrate the New Year without the former. Ordinarily the dumplings are made with beef or pork. But for the New Year's food the dumplings are often stuffed with pheasant meat. It is quite common to present one's friend with a pair of pheasants for the New Year.

There are many special delicacies for the New Year celebrations. Some of the important ones are *yakkwa*, *soojungkwa*, *sikhe* and *yakbab*.

Yakkwa is a candy-like delicacy made of rice powder with honey and fried in oil. Dried persimmons floating in honeyed ginger water is the *soojungkwa*. Often pine-nuts and powdered cinnamon are added. *Sikhe* is somewhat like a sweet wine. Rice, a little fermented, floats in the honeyed water. Also pine-nuts are added. The *yakbab* is a dish of steamed sticky rice mixed with chestnuts, dates, pine-nuts, etc. All these delicacies are usually served as desserts.

While the seesaw game is for the girls a typical Korean game, *yutnori* is a popular game for everybody.

It is played with four sticks (each stick 3 cm in diameter and 20 cm in length) or four pieces of chestnuts or beans. The scores are recorded by counting how many "heads and tails" when the four pieces are thrown by the players. The player who completes the circle first is the winner. There are many tricks and loopholes to make the circle difficult, which makes the game more interesting.

Another popular January game is kite flying for the children. In the early morning of the first day of the year children fly many kinds of kites. The children sing a kite song:

*"Soar high, my kite,
Fly like the eagles,
Fly up to the clouds;
Touch the sky."*

Usually the New Year celebrations come to an end on the 15th of January, the first full moon. On this date various wild vegetables are eaten and a special candy is chewed to keep the teeth in good condition. Also, people have chestnuts, pine-nuts, walnuts and many other kinds of nuts. And people eat noodle soup for long life and drink a special wine for good hearing. It

was customary for the people to go up to a hill to greet the rising of the first moon of the year, carrying torch lights. And the children sing the following song:

*"Moon, moon, you bright moon.
Yonder in the moon
There stand cinnamon trees.
With the golden ax I will cut,
With the silver ax I'll trim it
To build a cozy little house,
Where with my dear father and
mother
We'll live forever."*



Kite-flying

A Folk-story



ONCE UPON A TIME, there were three men living in a village. They had the nick-names of Chungjoo-saram, Jookrimho and Tongkyungkwi. One day they went to the market in a township some way from the village. There they bought a horse on joint account.

After discussion as to who should ride on their way home, it was agreed that one who had been to the highest place would go on horseback.

Jookrimho was the first to speak. He said: "I once went above the heavens."

Tongkyungkwi lost no time in having his say: "Well, you say you have been above the heavens. But

I got to a still higher place, climbing up from the point you had reached."

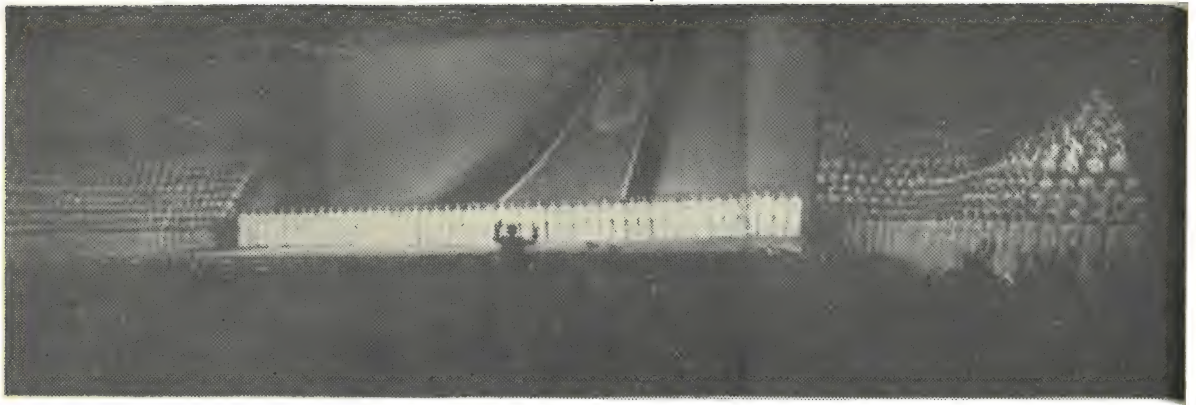
A sharp man, Chungjoo-saram asked Tongkyungkwi:

"Didn't your hand touch something above you then? Something stiff and long?"

Tongkyungkwi thought if his assertion was to carry weight, he should answer in the affirmative. So, he said: "Oh, yes, I did. It was tough and a bit lengthy."

Then, Chungjoo-saram said triumphantly: "There, you see, that tough and lengthy object was my leg. Now, it is clear you were below me because you touched my leg."

With this, he nimbly sprang on the horse. Now, Jookrimho and Tongkyungkwi looked at each other in embarrassment but they had no choice but to follow behind the horse on foot.



The grand chorus, opening scene of "Glorious Is Our Fatherland"

A MUSIC AND DANCE PRESENTATION

"Glorious Is Our Fatherland"

The performance of "Glorious Is Our Fatherland" given recently in Pyongyang was a great event in the field of the Korean theatrical art. It is a collective work of writers, composers, and choreographers, and some 3,000 singers, dancers and instrumentalists joined in the performance.

Most vividly it brings to the stage the Korean people's struggle for freedom and independence and the magnificent vista for soci-

alist-communist construction.

The curtain rises to the singing of "Glorious Is Our Fatherland" by the grand chorus of 1,500 voices accompanied by a big orchestra of three hundred.

The narrator tells of the miserable life of the Korean people under the Japanese rule. On the stage the plight of the Korean people who were growing under the cruel rule of Japanese imperialism is shown. People leave their

dear homeland in groups. The dancers depict the Koreans clad in rags and carrying a few belongings on their backs being driven away from their fatherland across the border. The dance is accompanied by a national instrument orchestra of two hundred members.

As the boom of the *Aurora* guns from Leningrad reporting the October Revolution is heard, the dawn of the Great October breaks



"Liberation by the Soviet Army," a scene from "Glorious Is Our Fatherland"

and a Red Flag flutters on the stage. At the same time in the dense forest of the Changbaik range, located in the northern border of our country the beacon light of the Fatherland Restoration is flashed by General Kim Il Sung. And the people encouraged by the flame of the Great October Revolution are rising up for the national liberation struggle against the Japanese imperialists. Following the dancers, the chorus sings again; the shouts of the demonstrators that echoed up and down the land of three thousand ri ring out. Then the scene changes, showing the life and heroic struggle of the anti-Japanese partisans led by General Kim Il Sung, launched in the grimmest years of the Korean people's life. Dark clouds hang over the country and the fascist suppression by the Japanese colonial rulers reaches its height.

Blizzards, snowstorms, drifting snow! The partisans, Communists and revolutionary warriors, are marching on over mountains and steeps, passing through the thickets in the snowstorm, despite hunger and cold, exterminating the enemy.

Then the singing of "Glory to the Soviet Army" is heard. People, young and old, pour on to the stage presenting bouquets to the liberators, the Soviet Army. This is depicted by mass dancing to the accompaniment of national instrument orchestra and western music orchestra.

The voice of the narrator tells of the triumphal return of General Kim Il Sung, the beloved leader of the Korean people, to the fatherland. Throngs of people dance joyously, waving flowers in welcome to the victorious General. In response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea, the people founded their glorious fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—and leap forward towards socialist construction.

Suddenly peace is broken. Bombs are bursting all over the land. The U.S. imperialists have started war in Korea. But the U.S. imperialists could not subdue the Korean people. The stage is filled again with the dancers depicting the horrors of war and the struggle of the people for peace and defence of the country.

The war ended in a glorious victory for the Korean people. Doves of peace are flying again and the people take up the first shovel to rebuild the country. Then the scene changes to show the ever improving life of the people who are leaping forward on a winged horse towards the eminence of socialism. The big chorus sings "Chullima" (winged horse).

Molten iron is flowing. Tens of thousands of canals stretch like

cobwebs throughout the country. The hills are ablaze with all varieties of flowers, and cereals are ripening in the fields. The song celebrating the good harvest is sung.

The performance concludes with a mass dance "Friendship Waltz" and "Let the Dove of Peace Fly" performed to the music of the chorus singing unity and friendship among the people of the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union.

The successful presentation of the "Glorious Is Our Fatherland" shows the big stride made in Korean culture and art since liberation.

It is based on the many important historical events in the Korean people's life, which were most expressively recreated.

A peasant dance, a scene from "Glorious Is Our Fatherland"



The national instrument orchestra at the performance

In Memory of CHEKHOV

DUSK was falling when I left home for State Drama Theatre No. 1 to see the play "Uncle Vanya" dedicated to the centenary of Chekhov's birthday.

As I was coming across the bridge over the Taidong River, I happened to overhear two workers talking as hurried past me. One of them said: "Chekhov is a writer who breathed the same breath with us..."

Brief though the phrase was, it put me to thinking. It brought back to me an occurrence long forgotten. It was before liberation when I, then a middle-school boy, was making a trip by train from Pyongyang to Shinuijoo during my school vacation. When the train reached the Shinuijoo Station a middle-aged man who had been sitting opposite me all the way totally lost in reading suddenly sprang to his feet.

"Have we passed the Namshi Station?" he asked in alarm. "...Why, it is already Shinuijoo!"

By his looks, I took him to be an artist. He had been so engrossed in reading Chekhov's short stories that he did not notice it when the train passed the Namshi Station where he should have got off.

Since before the country's libera-

tion Chekhov has been very popular with our people.

In the thirties, together with Gorky's works "The Lower Depths," "Petty Bourgeois," "Foes" and "Mother," the popularity of Chekhov grew ever greater. It was in those days that his celebrated play "Cherry Orchard" was staged in our country.

Before liberation, however, Chekhov's work were read mainly by intellectuals. It was after liberation that his works gained increasing popularity with the workers, peasants and other labour folks.

Almost all the works of Chekhov have been translated and put out in our country, in the form of selected works. Particularly his stories are widely read among the reading public in factories, rural villages, fishing villages, various institutions, and other places throughout the country.

In some agricultural co-ops, farmers not infrequently hold gatherings for appreciating Chekhov's works.

Last Sunday I visited the State Library to get some materials on Chekhov.

A librarian of my acquaintance told me:

"Chekhov's popularity is fabulous,

his works have large numbers of readers."

Some time ago I visited the Pyongyang Tobacco Factory and had a talk with a girl member of the factory's literary circle. She told me that Chekhov's works provided her with the most precious mental food.

What has made Chekhov's works popular with our working people? It is, first and foremost, their popular character.

Even the threat of death could not daunt Chekhov. Though suffering from consumption, he went to Siberia, a site of shocking crimes in Tsar Russia, and thence to Sakhalin, with the sole object of making a profound study of people's life.

When a severe famine swept the countryside, Chekhov sponsored the organization of a relief committee for the stricken peasants and did his utmost to aid them.

We see in his works an impassioned denouncer of the order of things prevailing in pre-revolutionary Russia. He was firmly convinced of the collapse of that degenerate society, he was an inspired prophet of a new and happy life. And the new life Chekhov dreamt of has come true.

People of Korea, enjoying the new life longed for by the literary genius, now remember him with ardent love and respect. Here, my thinking was suddenly interrupted by the ringing of the traffic signal bell. I found myself already turning the corner of the cross-roads leading to State Drama Theatre No. 1.

When I came to the theatre, I found crowds of people thronging in front of it. They all had come to see the play "Uncle Vanya" in commemoration of the birthday of the great writer.

What brought them all here was the very popular character of his immortal works.

So thinking, I waited in the long queue for my turn to buy a ticket.



A scene from the drama "Uncle Vanya"

Round the Country

YEARLY PLANS FULFILLED

The Hwanghai Iron Works

The workers of the steel-rod shop had fulfilled their production plan for 1959 by December 15 last at 100.4 per cent. Compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, over 14,900 tons more steel rod were turned out at the workshop. This figure exceeds by far the total amount of steel rod produced during the whole of the year 1958.

At present, per hour steel rod production of the shop is 230 per cent of that in 1958; and compared with the early months of last year the facility utility rate has risen to 104.5 per cent and per worker output to 134.

At the steel-making shop of the iron works, on the other hand, the 1959 plan of steel production was fulfilled by December 22 last. Thus, the workers at the shop produced in less than a year 50,000 tons of steel more than during the whole of the preceding year.

At present the tempo of steel production at the works is over 70 per cent greater than in 1957 and over 30 per cent greater than in 1958.

All this brilliant success is the result of the tireless endeavours of the workers and technicians of the works who have constantly devoted their efforts to innovation of the equipment and timely repair of the metallurgical plants, reducing thereby the time of each heat by more than 40 minutes.

Fertilizer Factories

The workers of the factories and enterprises under the Ministry of

Power and Chemical Industries had overfulfilled by one per cent their plan of chemical fertilizer production for 1959 by last December 20. This was made possible because they innovated the equipment and technical process of production and vigorously introduced advanced techniques, while strictly following the technical regulations in order to fully bring up the capacity of the equipment.

Among other things, the plan of ammonium nitrate production for 1959 was topped by 5.7 per cent. Thus by December 20 last over 6,500 tons more of ammonium nitrate had been turned out than in the preceding year.

In the production of nitro-lime, too, the plan was overfulfilled by 6.9 per cent by December 20. As to ammonium chloride, the output was over 4,400 tons greater than in 1958.

To cite two of our major chemical fertilizer factories: The Heungnam Fertilizer Factory had topped its 1959 plan by 7.3 per cent by the same day, and the workers of the Soonchun Nitro-lime Fertilizer Factory had overfulfilled their assignments for 1959 by 8.1 per cent by December 20 last.

Light Industry

Thirty-five factories and enterprises under the Ministry of Light Industry had fulfilled their yearly production plan for 1959 by December 20 last.

In the sphere of the textile industry six major textile mills including the Pyongyang Silk Mill, the Shinuijoo Woolen-textile Mill and the Hamheung Silk Mill, fulfilled their plans of production for 1959.

At the Pyongyang Silk Mill, for instance, the yearly plan had been overfulfilled by last November. And by December 20 the workers of the mill had turned out 5,753,000 metres more of various kinds of fabrics than in the whole of 1958.

On December 15 last, the Anjoo

Silk Mill too overfulfilled their yearly plan of silk fabrics production by 8.2 per cent, exceeding thus its total output of silk goods for the year 1958 by 412,790 metres.

In the domain of daily necessities production, ten factories including the Pyongyang Rubber Factory, the Pyongyang Combined Daily Necessities Factory, etc. topped their yearly quotas by 3-25 per cent.

Twelve foodstuff factories, the Pyongyang Corn-starch Factory and the Pyongyang Tobacco Factory included, also exceeded their plans.

Many other factories and enterprises of heavy and light industries too overfulfilled their plans ahead of time.

A PROSPERING CO-OP

Today the life of the peasants is prospering in our country with each passing day.

On last December 21, the members of the Sangjoong Agricultural Co-operative, Hamjoo County, South Hamkyung Province, which gathered in unprecedentedly rich crops last autumn thanks to the intensive farming methods they had applied, summed up their co-operative labour for the past one year and came in for their shares of the harvest.

Each peasant household received an average of 2,405 kilograms of rice and 206 won in cash. Compared with the preceding year, the share of each peasant household increased 50 per cent in rice and 98 per cent in cash on an average. The largest share went to the co-op member Hong Yoon Heui who received 6 tons of rice and 522 won in cash.

In 1959 the co-operative averaged 5.2 tons of rice harvest per jungbo of paddy-fields, whereas 4 tons were the average figure in the past. As a result, the rice yield at the co-operative increased by more than 500 tons in 1959, as

compared with 1958, the record year up to that date. Rice harvested by the co-operative in 1959 will be enough to feed the whole village for two and a half years.

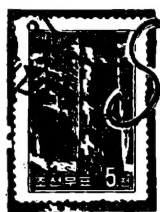
Not only that, the members of the co-operative achieved great success also in stock breeding, sericulture, fruit growing, cultiva-

tion of industrial crops, etc. In stock breeding, success was particularly great. The number of cattle and pigs increased more than three times and chickens and ducks more than seven times.

During 1959, 23 new houses were built for farmers in the co-operative, besides canteens, bath-

houses and other facilities, as well as 2 large cattle-pens, 132 pigsties and 3 chicken-houses.

Today the co-op members, rejoicing over their prospering life, are devoting their energies to still more rapid development of the co-operative.



Stamps of Korea

PERSPECTIVE TASKS

Having healed the severe war wounds after the Korean war, Korea started in 1957 the First Five-Year Plan (1957-61), which was fulfilled in 1959 in gross industrial output value two and a half years ahead of the set time. This was a great success, indeed. But before the Korean people are yet bigger, perspective tasks to be carried out.

A set of ten "specials," issued on September 20, 1959, features the perspective tasks of socialist construction which were put forth by Premier Kim Il Sung in his report to the tenth anniversary (1958) of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and were fully supported by the entire people. The task are to be carried out within 6-7 years.

The ten stamps, of which we are introducing 5 in this issue, represent the tasks in each branch of the national economy and show the target figures on the respective stamps.

Stamp 1, 10 jun, blue, prussian blue and yellow, shows great socialist construction—furnaces, hydro-power dam, electric lines and buildings construction. Words in-

scribed at top are "Great Construction."



Stamp 2, 2 jun, blue-green and earth color, shows a dam for hydro-power with electricity transmission lines. Figures given below is the perspective target: 20 billion kwh, or 2,000 kwh in per capita output.



Stamp 3, 10 jun, purple, deep green and earth color, shows the steel workers striving to carry out the



target set for steel output, 3-3.5 million tons, per capita output being 300-350 kg.

Stamp 4, 10 jun, brown, yellow, gray, shows the iron-workers' struggle for their target of 4 million tons of pig and granulated iron output, the per capita output being 400 kg.



Stamp 5, 5 jun, dark-blue, gray and yellow, shows chemical fertilizers being produced in large quantities and prepared for supply to countryside. The target figures inscribed are 1.5-2 million tons, or per capita output of 150-200 kg.



All 10 stamps are 26 X 36 mm. Perf. Offset.

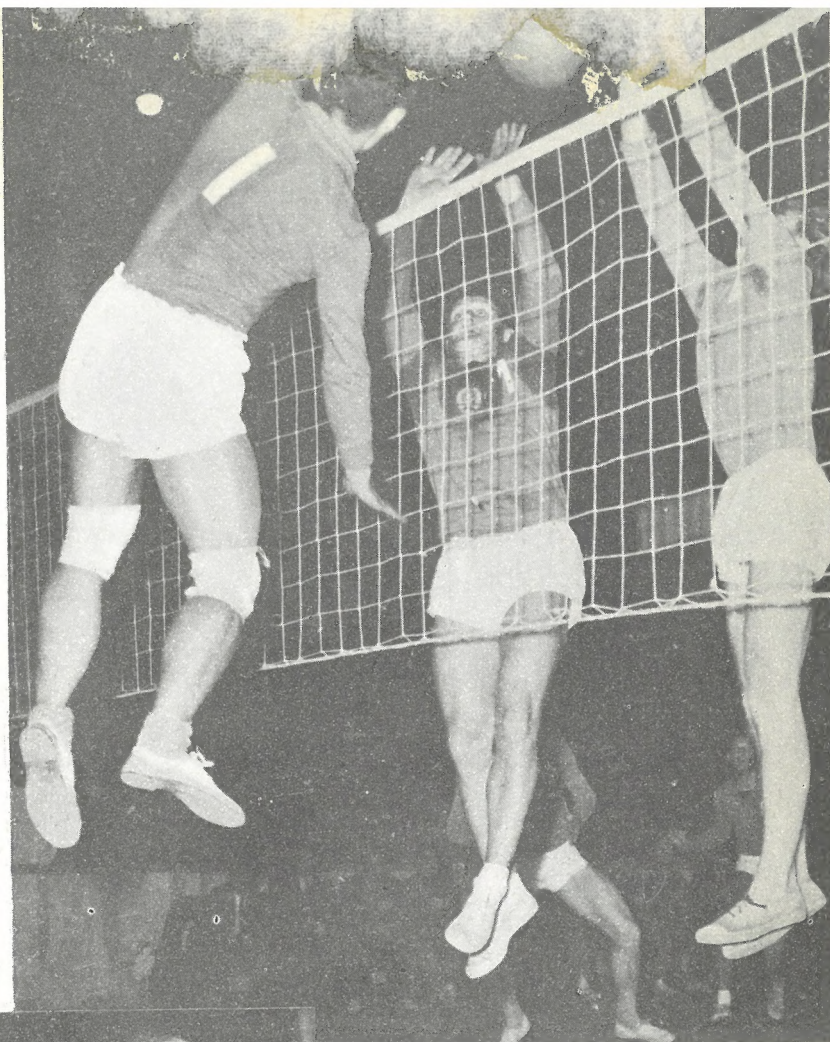
The other five stamps of this set will be published in our next issue.

Friendly Volleyball Matches

In the latter part of November last year, two national volleyball teams, men from the German Democratic Republic, women from Czechoslovakia, came to Korea to play friendly matches.

The men's team of Democratic Germany played five matches, winning two and losing three, while the Czechoslovak girls won both of the matches they played.

→ A match between the G.D.R. team and the combined team of Pyongyang city. They met twice, on November 22 and 24, each team winning one and losing one



← The Czechoslovak girls proved themselves worthy of players of world fame. Korean players of both the February 8 team and the combined team of Pyongyang city adopted varied tactics and launched powerful attack in their matches against the visiting team. But they failed to gain the upper hand

